

World gets new
watermelon eating
champions

Diana phone
calls drove PR
to quit — page

Turks move closer to fresh deal with Israel

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and Israel are close to sealing a defence industry cooperation agreement, the Turkish foreign ministry said on Monday, in the latest sign of growing ties between the two Middle East powers. "We have an advanced stage for the conclusion of a defence industry cooperation agreement... It might be signed during the visit of Israeli deputy undersecretary, foreign ministry spokesman Omer Akbel told a news briefing. Mr. Akbel gave no date for the visit by Israel's undersecretary of defence, David Ivry, but diplomatic sources say the trip was expected next week. Turkey's Islamist Premier Necmettin Erbakan strongly opposed an earlier military training pact between the two countries when his party was in opposition. However, he toned down his criticism after taking power. "It is only a legal framework for such a cooperation. There is nothing specific in it," an Israeli official told Reuters.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي



Jordan, U.S. sign F-16 agreement

WASHINGTON (J.T.) — Jordan and the United States Monday signed an agreement by which the U.S. supplies the Kingdom with 16 advanced F-16 war planes as part of American military assistance to Jordan, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafiz Mirai Kaabneh delivered an address at the signing ceremony expressing Jordan's deep appreciation of the American government's assistance noting that the planes will help Jordan boost its defence capabilities. Petra said in a dispatch from the U.S. capital. The U.S. air force secretary Sheila Windal replied by pledging continued assistance for the advancement of the Jordanian Armed Forces. The deal would provide Jordan with a dozen F-16As and an F-16B at no cost because the aircraft already have exceeded 75 per cent of their service life, an air force spokesman, quoted by AFP, said.

Volume 21 Number 6286

AMMAN TUESDAY, JULY 30, 1996, RABI I, 14, 1417

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Iranian troops advance 50 kms inside north Iraq, thousands flee

ERBIL, Iraq (AFP) — Iran said Monday it had crushed Iranian Kurdish rebels in a massive incursion into northern Iraq using ground troops, air strikes and artillery.

United Nations officials, meanwhile, were swamped with thousands of refugees fleeing the Iranian offensive, which drove at least fifty kilometres into Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, quoted by the official IRNA news agency, said the operation which began Sunday against the bases of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (DPK) had "ended with success."

"Our forces chased and surrounded strongholds of the anti-revolutionaries and bandits and killed or wounded dozens of them with the help of artillery fire," an unidentified commander told IRNA.

"The bodies of at least 20 important members of DPK have been spotted in the region," he said without indicating whether there were any casualties among the government troops.

The Iraqi-based DPIK said earlier that Iran had given the rebel group a deadline of 8 p.m. (1600 GMT) Monday to leave its main camp near Koi Sanjaq but it vowed to ignore it.

Iranian warplanes bombed the village of Tsheshnikan, west of the main northern Iraqi city of Erbil, on Monday, U.N. officials in the area said, but there were no reports of casualties.

Fighting which erupted Sunday had lulled on Monday after the deadline was set, the DPIK said.

Around 2,500 refugees, almost all of them women and children, flooded to offices of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the main northern Iraqi city of Erbil. UNHCR officials said.

U.N. agencies and non-government organisations later worked out a plan to distribute food, water, clothing, shelter and medical care to the refugees, many of whom suffered from sun stroke and diarrhoea, they added.

Temperatures soared to 47 degrees Celsius.

Two thousand Iranian soldiers armed with light and heavy artillery crossed into northern Iraq on Thursday to attack rebel bases, the Iraqi-based DPIK said Sunday.

It said the soldiers pushed 50 kilometres inside Iraq to bombard a DPIK camp in Koi Sanjaq where Iranian Kurdish rebels live with their families.

But DPIK spokesman Mustafa Amin said his group was determined to resist the Iranian offensive and would ignore the deadline to leave Koi Sanjaq.

"We are ready to resist Iranian forces. We will stay in the district," he told AFP by telephone, adding that all women and children had left for Erbil.

Mr. Amin said the Iranians had destroyed half of the DPIK offices as well as 13 homes.

An AFP correspondent in Koi Sanjaq said a hospital was also damaged by Iranian shells, and that damage to a power plant near the camp cut electricity to Erbil for the past 24 hours. The Iranian government did not confirm the intervention but said it shelled rebel posi-

tions inside Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq on Sunday, killing eight guerrillas, in a bid to halt cross-border attacks.

Mr. Amin denied any guerrillas had been killed. An Iranian general, Farhad Dayfci, told AFP in Koi Sanjaq that Tehran troops launched the incursion in response to cross-border raids by DPIK guerrillas that left Iranian civilians dead earlier this month.

The general said the fighting stopped early Monday and that his forces would leave northern Iraq in the near future. The Iranian army had suffered no casualties, he added.

The Iraqi government summoned Iran's charge d'affaires in Baghdad to protest the incursion and demand that Tehran immediately withdraw its troops.

"A force of nearly 3,000 Revolutionary Guards on Sunday occupied parts of the village of Koi Sanjaq," a foreign ministry spokesman said. The village was "shelled heavily, causing several dead and wounded among civilians and causing considerable damage," he said,

quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency (INA).

The main armed Iranian opposition group, the People's Mujahedeen, also condemned the Iranian military incursion and vowed to support the Kurdish guerrillas.

Massud Rajavi, head of the People's Mujahedeen which also has bases in Iraq, said in a statement: "We are standing side-by-side by our Kurdish compatriots and brothers against this evil clerical regime."

"This is not the first time that the religious, terrorist dictatorship has taken advantage of the circumstances in northern Iraq and invaded the area to bombard and kill the Kurds and Iranian Kurdish groups," said Mr. Rajavi, whose group is also based in Iraq.

"The international community's silence towards these crimes has so emboldened the regime that it officially claims responsibility," he added, urging the Security Council to take an immediate stance on the attack.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are greeted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday upon Their Majesties arrival at Amman Airport after their visit to the United Kingdom (Petra photo)

King, Queen return home

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday strongly condemned terrorist attacks in Atlanta and the downing of the TWA plane over the Atlantic as barbaric actions committed against mankind.

"The perpetrators of the two crimes cannot be affiliated or considered belonging to the human race as they are stripped of all sense of humanity and they lack any sense of morals or conscience," the King said in remarks upon his return to Amman from a visit to the United Kingdom where he underwent a minor surgery and held talks with British leaders on the Middle East peace process.

"These crimes are directed against the whole world, against civilisation and mankind and they are condemned acts of terrorism," the King said.

The King said he was feeling well after the surgery and thanked all the Arab leaders who enquired about his health.

Asked to comment on the current developments in the region and his own efforts towards enhancing the peace process, he said: "You will soon hear about these efforts."

Returning with the King were Her Majesty Queen Noor, and the Jordanian delegation accompanying him.

While in Britain, Queen Noor visited the annual air show in London in which the Jordanian Royal Falcons took part in a display over the British capital.

The Queen, accompanied by several Royal family members, toured the Jordanian wing and inspected a display of items and posters depicting the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Jordan denies any role in Iraqi coup attempt

By Mervat Suwadeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan denied Monday that it had any role in an alleged plot to topple the Iraqi regime and reiterated that it "does not intervene" in Iraq's internal affairs.

"Jordan has never been involved in any plot to topple the Iraqi regime or assassinate the Iraqi president, I categorically deny this," Minister of Information Marwan Muasher told an informal press briefing Monday.

Dr. Muasher's comments were in reaction to a statement made by an Iraqi opposition leader in which he accused the United States, Jordan and "another country in the region" of plotting to overthrow the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Mohammad Baqer Al Hakim, president of the Supreme Council for the Iranian-based Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) said 25 to 30 Republican Guards officers were executed after the Iraqi authorities uncovered the plan.

"The American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) did not move in a determined and loyal manner, despite its expressed desire for changing the situation in Iraq," Mr. Hakim said in a Reuters report.

"Some 150 officers from the Republican Guards have been arrested of whom 25 to 30 were executed in mid-July," he was quoted as saying.

He reportedly accused the CIA of working only to achieve its own goals and interests even if that led to bloodshed and the disclosure of people working with it.

Mr. Hakim did not say who made the coup attempt but Reuters quoted what it called SCIRI sources as saying Washington had paid \$5 million to Iyad Elawi, leader of the Iraqi National Accord, which is based in Jordan, to try to topple President Saddam.

SCIRI sources said Mr. Hakim had been aware of the attempt but did not want to become involved due to doubts about its chances of success.

Mubarak, Christopher meet

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday began a three-day visit here centred on fighting terrorism and advancing peace in the Middle East under new Israeli leadership.

Mr. Mubarak began a packed schedule of meetings at Blair House, the official residence for visiting heads of state, by welcoming Anthony Lake, President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, the White House said.

He then sat down with Secretary of State Warren Christopher before holding talks with John Deutch, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The meetings were described as initial discussions on issues that were to

be followed up when Mr. Mubarak goes to the White House on Tuesday to meet with Mr. Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore.

The visit by the Egyptian leader coincides with the return to Washington of U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross who is trying to relaunch peace efforts following the election two months ago of right-wing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The U.S. administration, which had backed Shimon Peres in the Israeli election, has been struggling to ensure that gains made under previous agreements are not lost because of Mr. Netanyahu's more hawkish approach.

Investigators continue fishing for clues: FBI suspects bomb caused TWA Flight 800's crash

EAST MORICHES (AFP) — Investigators Monday were hoping to retrieve key pieces of TWA Flight 800 wreckage from the Atlantic that would reveal the cause of the crash that killed all 230 people aboard.

The U.S. navy was reinforcing its operations to bring up more pieces of the Boeing 747, which exploded in mid-air July 17 off the coast of long island.

A specially equipped U.S. navy ship, the Grapple, was due to join a sister ship, the Grasp, in the retrieval effort. Robert Francis, vice-chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), said in a CNN television interview early Monday.

Separately, CNN said the Federal Bureau of Investigation was close to declaring the explosion was caused by a bomb, thus taking over the investigation from the NTSB.

Citing unnamed sources close to the investigation, CNN said that a bomb located in the left forward part of the plane, in the baggage area behind the cockpit, would have caused the plane to break up in mid-air.

But investigators continued to insist they were pursuing all options, with the three main theories being the crash was caused by a mechanical malfunction, a bomb or a missile.

Mr. Francis said that depending on continued favourable weather conditions and equipment functioning, investigators were hoping to bring up debris, especially from the wreckage field where part of the forward area of the plane fell, including the first-class cabin.

The rest of the plane plunged into the Atlantic 2.4 kilometres farther along the plane's flight path.

According to Mr. Francis, investigators still have not found any chemical residue on victims' remains or plane debris that would indicate a bomb caused the explosion of Paris-bound Flight 800, 11-1/2 minutes after it left New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Asked in a CNN interview Sunday whether any such trace had been found, he simply replied: "No."

In Washington Monday, President Bill Clinton has called a White House

meeting with administration officials and congressional leaders to discuss new anti-terrorist measures after the TWA crash and the fatal bombing Saturday at the summer Olympics in Atlanta.

As of early Monday, 159 bodies of the 230 victims had been recovered, and among those 154 were identified, investigators said.

Relatives of those who died in the crash of TWA Flight 800 expressed anger Monday at the slow retrieval of the bodies from the ocean floor.

"We are very concerned at the rate of return of our loved ones," said Joseph Lychner, who lost his wife and two young daughters in the July 17 crash. He added that "the rate of return has diminished consistently and now we feel as though we are at the point of getting too few of our loved ones back."

"Today, at this point, we still have 71 of our loved ones missing," said Lychner, who has acted as a spokesman for the families gathered at a hotel near John F. Kennedy Airport.

'Netanyahu will meet with Arafat; PNA president wins Saudi support

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu plans to meet with Yasser Arafat after senior cabinet ministers have held talks with the Palestinian leader, a radio report said Monday.

Israel army radio, quoting Eitan Bentsur, deputy director general of the foreign ministry, said Mr. Netanyahu planned to meet with Mr. Arafat after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader has held talks with Israel's

defence and finance ministers.

The report, quoting Mr. Bentsur, said no date had been set for such a meeting.

However, Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak said Monday that Mr. Bentsur was not speaking for the prime minister. "We have no plans on this issue," Mr. Bazak said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Arafat won Saudi King Fahd's support in his struggle with Israel over Jerusalem and its closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, an official

said Monday in Jeddah. "Saudi Arabia will spare no effort to support the Palestinian Authority," Palestinian Minister Saeb Erekat quoted King Fahd as saying.

Mr. Arafat on Saturday condemned a decision by Israel's supreme court to allow Jewish extremists into Jerusalem's Haram Al Sharif compound which contains Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, the third holiest site in Islam after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

The Temple Mount Faith-

ful want to destroy the mosques to rebuild the Jewish temple, destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D.

King Fahd also assured Mr. Arafat of his support after tens of thousands of Palestinians lost their jobs when Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip for security reasons.

"We are at your disposition and what affects you concerns us," Dr. Erekat quoted the king as saying. Mr. Arafat and his delegation were to meet later Monday with Saudi offi-

cials to discuss "practical steps" to counter the problems, Dr. Erekat said without specifying how Saudi Arabia would contribute.

In September Saudi Arabia, where more than 100,000 Palestinians live, gave \$100 million to the Palestinian Authority as part of its promised contribution to financing Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Arafat also held talks with Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan.

Mr. Netanyahu's visit is the third to the Kingdom. He visited twice before as an opposition leader.

It comes amid a flurry of diplomatic activity in the region aimed at securing the resumption of the frozen Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Jordan has voiced concern over Mr. Netanyahu's harsh stances regarding the peace process and his rejection of the land-for-peace formula, the basis for the Middle East peace process.

One dead, 10 hurt in Algeria explosion

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A bomb explosion in a tea house in the Algerian capital killed one person and injured 10 others Monday, Algerian security services said.

Sirens blaring ambulances rushed to the El Biar district of Algiers, as security services evacuated the injured and cordoned off the area around the "Chateaufort" tea house situated close to a police station, witnesses reported.

The home-made bomb exploded at 12:50 p.m. (11:50 GMT), according to a security services statement, quoted by the Algerian official press agency.

Monday's incident was the fourth attack on a cafe since mid-July when a new flare-up of violence began after President Liamine Zeroul resumed talks with the opposition to try to find a way to end Algeria's civil war. The dialogue excludes the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), despite a request by some parties that the fundamentalist organisation should be included.

On July 17, a bomb blast in a cafe in Blida, 50 kilometres south of the capital, left four dead and 26 injured.

Three days later, between seven and nine people were killed by a bomb in a cafe in Kolea, 40 kilometres to the west of Algiers.

Last Thursday, another bomb caused damage, but no casualties in a cafe-restaurant in Tizi Ouzou, east of Algiers. The owner of the premises spotted the device and placed it in his cold store

before clearing the cafe-restaurant.

Amid the intensified violence, the radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) on Saturday announced that its ousted leader Djamel Zitouni, alias Abou Abderrahmane Amine, had been killed "in an ambush."

According to Saturday's statement, Mr. Zitouni was killed July 16 by dissident members of the organisation which is the most radical of the groups fighting the military-backed regime and is opposed to any dialogue with it.

Algeria was plunged into civil war after the military regime cancelled a second round of elections in January 1992, which the FIS was poised to win.

Between 50,000 and 70,000 people have died in the subsequent conflict. Also Monday, an explosion caused by a gas leak in a building in central Algiers, left five people slightly injured, Algerian television reported.

Witnesses to that blast said they had seen at least seven people injured, but they could not comment on their condition.

Police cordoned off the area around the building and kept journalists at bay, while several ambulances were seen heading towards the area.

Meanwhile in Paris, the foreign ministry announced that French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette will travel to Algeria this week in a bid to improve strained relations

between the two countries.

Mr. De Charette, invited by his Algerian counterpart Ahmed Attaf, will visit Algeria on Wednesday and Thursday, the ministry said in a statement.

The trip follows "close and friendly relations that France and Algeria hope to maintain," the statement said, adding the visit had been discussed since early this year.

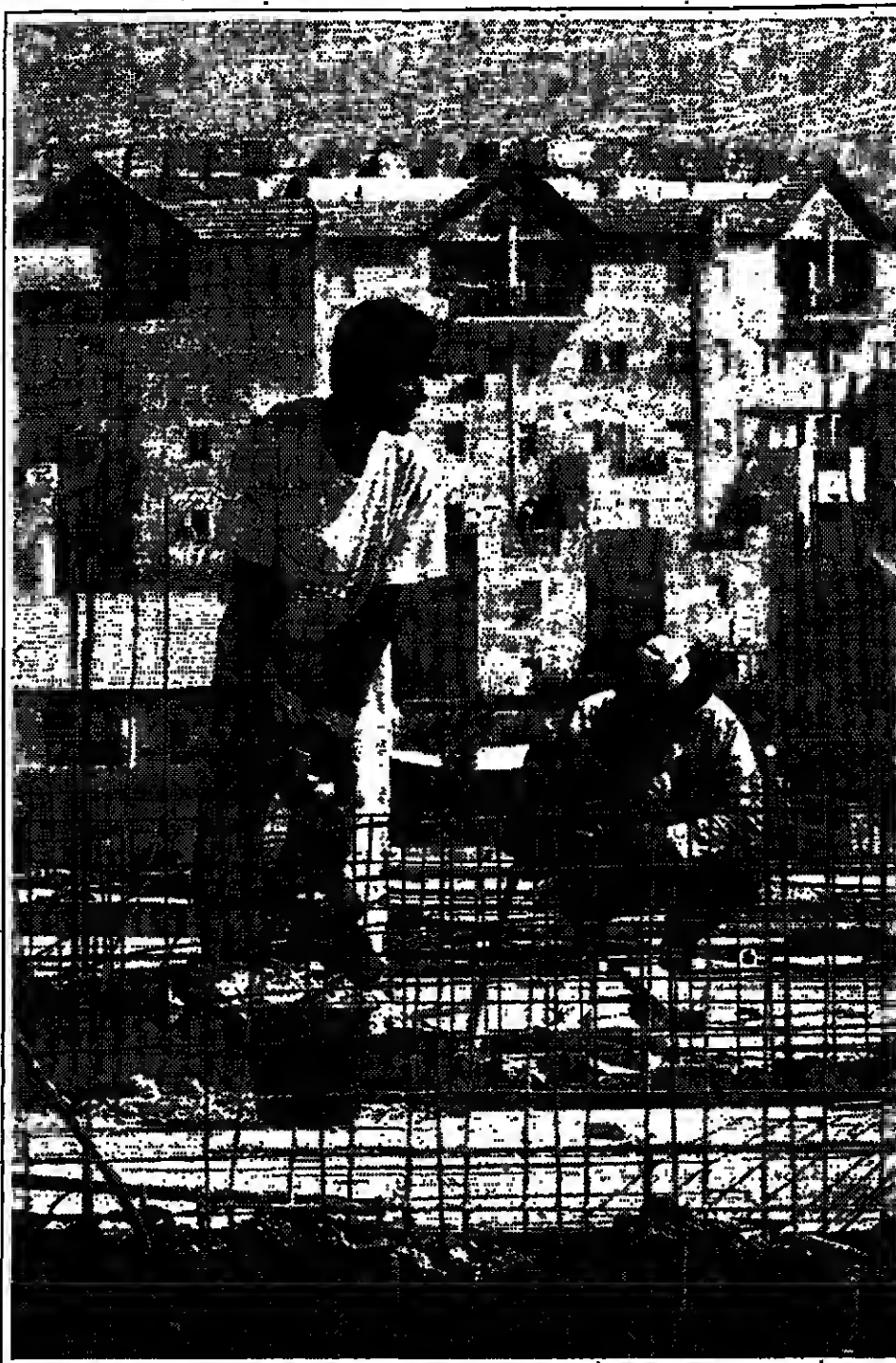
Relations have been strained, however, since Algeria's military-backed government cancelled January 1992 legislative elections the Islamic Salvation Front was expected to win amid anger over unemployment and corruption.

In the latest and most gruesome attack on French nationals, Muslim militants kidnapped seven French Trappist monks in a remote region south of Algiers.

The terrorist attacks, including the December 1994 hijacking of an Air France jetliner and a deadly bombing wave in France from July to October 1995, were aimed at pressuring France to its aid to the former colony with which it maintains close economic ties.

Last October, French President Jacques Chirac suggested a link between French aid and Algerian democratic reform, and the attacks subsided.

But his talk of reform angered Algerians sensitive to French interference in internal affairs, and President Liamine Zeroul cancelled a planned meeting with Mr. Chirac at the United Nations.



PALESTINIAN LABOURERS WORK AT A WEST BANK SETTLEMENT: Palestinian labourers at work on the roof of a new apartment block Monday in front of some of the thousands of existing red-roofed apartments which make this Jewish settlement the largest in the West Bank. Settlers expect Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to lift restrictions on housing construction in the West Bank and Gaza, making room for 50,000 new settlers (see page 12 story) (Reuters photo)

Sudanese-Eritrean border tension rising

ASMARA (R) — Tension on the border between Sudan and Eritrea is rising with Sudanese rebel groups based in Eritrea saying they are mounting attacks into eastern Sudan.

Western diplomats meanwhile said Sudan's armed forces had received a number of helicopter gunships from eastern Europe in the last six months for possible use against rebel groups.

"We are aware that Sudan has bought helicopter gunships from eastern Europe," a Western diplomat told Reuters at the weekend. An aid official in the region said the gunships were believed to be Ukrainian but the diplomats could not confirm this.

"It is no secret Eritrea is increasing its military presence along all parts of the border with Sudan," added a foreign aid agency which travels frequently from Asmara to the border with Sudan.

"There is no reason to believe Sudan is not doing the same."

A spokeswoman for the U.N. World Food Programme said the agency had suspended its food movement operations in eastern

Sudan from July 8 because of insecurity including two mine blasts.

She said most of the 24 refugee camps for a total of 140,000 Eritreans in east Sudan had enough food to last until October.

Sudan said last week its armed forces had repulsed an attack by forces from deep inside Eritrea on the Jebel Abu Gamal post to the west of the border strip between Sudan and Eritrea.

It did not specify whether the forces were Eritrean or Sudanese. Eritrea denied any involvement in last week's raid.

A Sudanese opposition alliance based in the Eritrean capital Asmara said its forces were responsible and quoted a traveller from the area as saying Sudanese troops brought three dead to the eastern Sudanese border town of Kassala after the attack.

The leader of a major Sudanese opposition party said the raid was the work of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), a coalition of Sudanese opposition groups. Its leaders plan to meet in Asmara within a month.

Sharon opposes plans to build Jordan-Israel airport in Aqaba Gulf

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's hardline infrastructure minister, Ariel Sharon, is opposed to plans to build a joint Israeli-Jordanian airport near the Gulf of Aqaba on the Red Sea, a ministry spokesman said Monday.

The project for the airport serving the Red Sea resorts of Aqaba and Eilat, five kilometres away in Israel, was drawn up by the previous Labour government after it signed peace with Jordan in October 1994.

But Mr. Sharon instead wants a new airport serving Eilat to be built on Israeli territory so it remains under the Jewish state's full control, the ministry spokesman said.

However, he is in favour of plans to build a power plant near Aqaba to run on Qatari gas and provide electricity to Israel.

Israel signed a letter of intention with the U.S. energy company Enron last October to import liquefied natural gas from Qatar.

In Amman, a local newspaper, Monday quoted Minister of Transport Nassir Lawzi as saying initial plans for the construction of the joint airport were worked out by experts from Jordan, Israel and the U.S.

He said the cost of building the joint airport would amount to \$80-120 million.

Lebanon court rejects appeal by Mossad agent

BEIRUT (R) — A Lebanese military court turned down on Monday an appeal by a Lebanese Mossad agent sentenced to death for carrying out a 1994 blast that killed three people in a Beirut suburb.

Judge Amin Nassar of the military court rejected in a court session the appeal by Ahmad Hallaq who was found guilty on June 19 of the December 1994 bombing.

The court had said Mr. Hallaq was instructed by the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad to carry out the bombing which killed Hizbollah security official Fouad Moughneyeb and two others in the pro-Iranian group's stronghold in southern Beirut.

The court's response to the appeal was that "the reasons filed in the appeal do not lead to the annulment of the sentence and the ruling has become irrevocable."

Opposition party says 5th member detained

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian opposition party announced that one of its leaders was arrested at dawn Sunday in relation for the party's opposition to the government's plans to lift bread subsidy.

Nidal Ghanem, a member of the Jordan Peoples

Democratic Party (Hashd) and head of the Zaqra branch, had his house searched "before being apprehended by security forces," said a statement released by Hashd.

Mr. Ghanem became the fifth member that Hashd claimed being apprehended by the security forces since July 21 when more than nine opposition parties

joined by political activists and union members staged a sit-in in front of Parliament to protest the government's move.

A spokesman for Hashd told the Jordan Times that one of its two leaders, Mithkal Zenati, who was detained by authorities last week for the same reason, was released Monday.

The spokesman, who did not wish to be identified, added that Mubammad Khalil, the second Hashd leader, who was preparing a sit-in in the town of Salt, was still in detention.

In a related development, a member of the Jordan Democratic Popular Unity Party, Misbah Ahmad, who also joined last week's sit-in, Monday was detained by the authorities for 14

hours, he told the Jordan Times. He said that security forces searched his house Monday "midnight" then apprehended him for questioning.

"What is annoying is apprehending me for questioning at midnight, although I told them I can come at any time" during the day, Mr. Ahmad said.

Iraq patrols test Turkey's new Islamist prime minister

ISTANBUL (R) — Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan faces his first foreign policy test on Tuesday when a sceptical Turkish parliament votes on extending U.S.-led air operations protecting Kurds in northern Iraq.

Analysts and foreign diplomats expect narrow approval for an extension of Operation Provide Comfort, which uses an air base in southern Turkey to protect northern Iraqi Kurds from Baghdad's forces.

However, the issue has trapped Mr. Erbakan between the sharp anti-Western rhetoric of his own Welfare Party and the demands of Turkey's NATO allies, particularly the United States, to maintain the pressure on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Turkey's influential military, which sees the allied air patrols as a good way to track Kurdish separatist rebels based inside Iraq, is also keen to win the extension.

A senior Welfare Party official said the Islamists would take a binding decision ahead of the vote, suggesting Mr. Erbakan was confident he could win over his deputies.

"Those MPs who have problems with the extension of...Provide Comfort can voice it in Welfare's group meeting," Deputy Chairman Ahmet Tekdal told Anatolian news agency.

"But the course to follow in things that serve the state's interest is decided in the parliament," he said. Key to the vote, analysts say, is the extent to which Mr. Erbakan can

keep his wary Welfare MPs in line. The prime minister, who took office one month ago, has already softened his own anti-Western statements.

"My best guess is that it will go through but it is by no means an absolute certainty," said one NATO diplomat. "A lot depends on whether Welfare will deliver."

Last week, Turkey's powerful National Security Council, chaired by the prime minister but dominated by the military chiefs, called on parliament to renew the operation. It has never been overruled on the issue.

Ultra-nationalist MPs, backed by much of the main conservative opposition, are expected to vote "no," meaning Mr. Erbakan will

have to persuade many of his 159 deputies to abandon their election pledges to abolish the force.

Mr. Erbakan can also count on the backing of his own coalition partners, led by pro-Western Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller.

Critics say Provide Comfort, hurriedly put in place after the 1991 Gulf war to stem a flood of Iraqi Kurdish refugees into Turkey, impinges on Turkish sovereignty and is laying the groundwork for a Kurdish state carved out from Iraq.

They also charge the force has created a power vacuum exploited by Kurdish separatists battling Ankara for greater autonomy. More than 19,500 people have died in the insurgency.

Lebanon court rejects appeal by Mossad agent

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19
PROGRAMME TWO
15:03 Captain Planet
15:30 Here's Lucy
15:55 Olympic Games
19:00 Le Journal
19:10 Olympic Games
22:00 News in English
22:20 Olympic Games

PRAYER TIMES
04:15 Fajr
05:44 (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 Dhuhra
16:23 Asr
19:40 Maghreb
21:09 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church
Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel.
661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church
Tel.
771331
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751

Amman International Church
Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824528
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.
675691
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures around average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 33, Aqaba 41 Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh 736011
Dr. Bilal Al Sayid 890280
Dr. Hisham Kan'an 790286
Dr. Jihad Sammour 765018
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nakrouh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Akram Haddad 985550
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417
EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Dept 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity 644281/6
Akileh Maternity 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
Hotel Complaints 630321
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/83323
Zarqa National Hospital 09/900560
Ibn Sina Hospital 09/98732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09/990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 02/275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02/127275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital 02/1247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:00 Damascus (RJ)
08:25 Sanaa (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
10:20 Beirut (RJ)
10:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:20 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 London (RJ)
17:40 Frankfurt (RJ)
18:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
02:50 Madrid (RJ)
Other Flights
05:40 London (BA)
09:15 Cairo (MS)
13:40 Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:00 Munich (YP)
16:00 Rome (AZ)
16:30 Dubai (EK)
19:35 Amsterdam (KL)
20:20 London (BA)
20:20 Aden (IY)
21:00 Beirut (ME)
22:00 Tel Aviv (LY)
00:55 Bucharest (RO)
03:00 Kuwait (KL)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
09:50 Aqaba (RW)
19:45 Tel Aviv (RW)
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:35 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:10 Paris (RJ)

13:15 Cairo (RJ)
14:05 London (RJ)
14:55 Madrid (RJ)
21:10 Larnaca (RJ)
21:20 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
Other Flights
08:45 Beirut (ME)
09:15 London (BA)
10:15 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain Muscat (GF)
15:30 Riyadh (SV)
15:45 Munich (YP)
17:00 Rome (AZ)
17:30 Dubai (EK)
20:45 Kuwait (KL)
21:20 Aden (IY)
23:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
01:55 Bucharest (RO)
04:00 Amsterdam (KL)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
10:00 Aqaba (Marka Airport proceeding to QAIA) (RW)
11:45 Riyadh (SV)
12:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
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Cucumber (large) 200/120
Cucumber (small) 350/200
Eggplant 190/120
Garlic 650/400
Grapes 470/300
Lemon 600/400
Marrow (large) 250/150
Marrow (small) 380/250
Mulukhiyah 120/80
Onion (dry) 150/80
Okra 700/500
Orange 450/300
Pea 650/400
Pear 720/500
Peach 720/500
Pepper (hot) 320/200
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Shooting
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Synchronized Swimming
Table Tennis
Tennis

Volleyball
Water Polo
Weightlifting

Wrestling
Judo
Karate

AMMAN — The Family Guidance and Awareness Centre in Zarqa has been operating for four months offering services to dozens of people, and today this community help vehicle will be officially inaugurated by HRH Princess Basma.

The centre, which started operating in April, is affiliated to the Zarqa Home Makers Association (ZHMA) and will offer social, psychological, legal and health guidance, according to Nadia Bushnaq, president of ZHMA.

"We conducted comprehensive studies within the Zarqa community and found that establishing such

Home News

Family guidance centre to be officially inaugurated in Zarqa

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

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The centre, which started operating in April, is affiliated to the Zarqa Home Makers Association (ZHMA) and will offer social, psychological, legal and health guidance, according to Nadia Bushnaq, president of ZHMA.

a centre will serve the Zarqa community considerably," Ms. Bushnaq told the Jordan Times.

The Zarqa community has a mixed social structure, Ms. Bushnaq explained, adding that this situation causes many social dilemmas including family disunity, depression, school drop-outs and domestic violence.

"We figured out that this centre was vital to help people and be their reference in solving their problems," she said, adding that the centre will try to offer an objective solution to their problems.

Future projects for the centre, Ms. Bushnaq said, include offering programmes for the youth "so that they can do something

useful in their spare time."

Moreover, Ms. Bushnaq said that plans are being studied to establish a senior citizens' day-care centre and a centre for hattered women in Zarqa.

"We have received several assurances by different organisations to support us financially so we can proceed with our future projects," Ms. Bushnaq said.

The inauguration is scheduled for noon at the Zarqa Chamber of Trade.

Princess Basma will present certificates to 22 graduates who will serve in the centre and to representatives of the various national and international organisations that financially supported the project, Ms. Bushnaq added.

PNA seeks Jordan's advice on administrative matters

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestinian Minister of Finance Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi is in Amman to request documents from the days Jordan was in charge of legal and administrative matters in the West Bank.

On Monday Mr. Nashashibi discussed with his Jordanian counterpart, Marwan Awad, how the Palestinian self-rule areas can benefit from Jordan's legislative experience in finance, customs, income tax and land survey services.

One request is particular was for tax related documents in use by Jordan in the Nabulus area of the West Bank.

Jordan severed administrative and legal ties with the West Bank in 1988.

Mr Awad said the ministries departments

would get to work straightaway to compile the required information, documents and related laws concerning the ownership of flats.

He said that the PNA is interested in the functions of the Amman Financial Market, which he said, would also be supplied in these areas.

According to Mr. Awad, the two sides agreed to advance their cooperation in the areas of customs and income tax.

In related news, Palestinian Minister of Transport and Communications Ali Ibrahim Qawasmeh is due in Amman next Sunday to discuss transport issues of concern to the two sides. He was invited by his Jordanian counterpart, Nasser Lawzi.

Minister urges coordinated efforts to preserve Aqaba environment

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Aqaba — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat Monday urged Aqaba's authorities to launch coordinated efforts to preserve the environment in Jordan's only outlet to the sea.

Aqaba Deputy Bader Riyadi, who accompanied the minister on the visit, agreed with Dr. Tubeishat, saying that more environmental preservation efforts are needed in the city in light of the fast development Aqaba is witnessing.

He said environmental concerns necessitate reconsidering the location of the oil

refinery which will be built in the city.

President of the Aqaba Region Authority Fayez Khasawneh said the authorities there have been working on improving environmental standards, pointing out that an environment unit was set up in 1994 to oversee the compliance of new projects with regulations on the environment.

He said the unit will be developed into a department with larger responsibilities and resources.

At a meeting with Aqaba Mayor Ryad Hilou, Dr. Tubeishat urged the Aqaba municipality to coordinate with governmental institu-

tions and to fulfil its duties to the citizens under the Municipalities Law, saying that the ministry checks the work of municipalities and provides them with necessary support.

Mr. Hilou highlighted the problems his municipality is facing in carrying out its duties, pointing out that a number of projects it has launched have increased its financial burdens.

On Sunday, Dr. Tubeishat also visited the Qudra region where he was briefed by officials there on the needs of the district.

The minister agreed to expand the borders of the district to include poultry farms in the area.

Visiting Algerian minister reviews trade relations with Kabbariti

AMMAN (Petra) — At the start of meetings of a Jordanian-Algerian economic committee Monday, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabbariti held talks with Algerian Minister of Industry and Trade Abdul Karim Harsbawi about Jordan promoting mutual ties with Algeria and the North African country's recently changed political and economic situation.

The two sides reviewed economic and trade links between their countries and emphasised their intention to develop bilateral relations.

Following the meeting, Mr. Harsbawi said that he briefed the Prime Minister about the political and economic situation in Algeria saying that conditions there have improved in the past few months especially at the political level.

Prior to the talks, Ministers of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, who was present at the meeting at the prime ministry, and Mr. Harsbawi reviewed and endorsed agreements

based on an accord reached in the past two days by a Jordanian-Algerian preparatory committee. The preparatory committee had drawn up draft plans to be formally signed by the two ministers in the coming two days covering measures to encourage investments, prevent dual taxation, and develop transport and cultural and educational cooperation between the two sides.

The formation of major economic blocs around the world during the recent years, Mr. Abul Ragheb said, induced Arab states to follow suit and make the creation of a united Arab economic alliance essential.

During the three-day ministerial meetings, Mr. Abul Ragheb said, the two sides will sign an agreement for the creation of a free trade zone.

The agreement is valid for one year and can be renewed automatically with the consent of both countries in order to



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabbariti Monday receives Algerian Minister of Trade and Industry Abdul Karim Harsbawi (third from left) at the prime ministry (Petra photo)

encourage trade exchanges, he added.

Another meeting held with Minister of Finance Marwan Awad to review

economic ties ensured Mr. Harsbawi that the talks will lead to very strong economic cooperation between the two countries, he later stated.

According to Mr. Awad, the talks will lead to very strong economic cooperation between the two countries, he later stated.

Kingdom to get Italian grant

AMMAN (J.T.) — Italy said it will grant Jordan a loan of 20 billion Italian lire (\$13.5 million) to help the country carry out its economic reform programme as agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

According to an agreement signed at the Ministry of Planning Monday, the one per cent interest loan, to be repaid over the next 30 years with a 12-year grace period, will also be used to finance Jordan's imports of Italian commodities.

"This is the second loan from the Italian government to Jordan granted on a similar basis, and we were very happy with the results of the first loan," said Francesco Cenilli, Italian ambassador to Jordan.

"It is not a large amount of money but we have already indicated to the Minister of Planning that we will increase it in the future when this fund has been used," the ambassador said.

Signing on Jordan's behalf was Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf.

Jobless poet continues hunger strike

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian poet who has been on a hunger strike for the past week because he has been jobless since 1990, said he will starve himself to death unless his problem is solved.

Mohammad Ibrahim Lafi, 30, a leading member of the Jordanian Writers Society (JWS), said his strike was a form of protest "because of the lack of job opportunities in the past six years."

Tired and pale, Mr. Lafi said his situation deteriorated to the extent that he had no money to buy himself food, which forced him to stage his strike, he added.

Mr. Lafi, who is temporarily residing and thus staging his strike at the JWS, returned to the Kingdom in 1990, after residing temporarily in Lebanon and Syria. He said he has been looking for a job since his return, "but all the doors were closed in my face," he added.

"Seeking a job has distracted me from my real life which is writing poetry and trying to improve my creative thinking and writing," Mr. Lafi told the Jordan Times.

He charged that he had sought a job at the Ministry of Culture and other government cultural organisations when he returned to the Kingdom, but was not fortunate in his search.

Mr. Lafi also said that the main reason he was unable to obtain a job was his firm stand towards the peace process and normalisation with Israel.

"It has been noticed recently after the recent political developments in the Arab World, that there has been intensive attempts on the part of the Arab political officials to subdue the

freedom of creativity among intellectuals in what I describe as the battle of normalisation with Israel," Mr. Lafi said.

Mr. Lafi also complained that poets cannot live only on their literary works, demanding that government institutes should adopt poets and provide them with a suitable work.

When asked why Mr. Lafi did not attempt to seek a job after his first job hunting trials, Mr. Lafi said: "I am not a beggar, and I have my dignity and as a creative person I have a high sensitive character, and trying to seek a job hits me hard."

Instead, Mr. Lafi said, the responsibility should lie on government institutes to encourage and support unemployed poets and writers, adding that currently "there are 80 writers and poets who are jobless, 40 of them work on freelance basis."

"I am not a beggar, and I have my dignity and as a creative person I have a high sensitive character, and trying to seek a job hits me hard."

Since his strike last Monday, Mr. Lafi said the only government reaction to his hunger strike were talks

and promises made by Qassem Abu Ein, secretary general at the Ministry of Culture, "but there were no serious offers."

"Since learning of Mr. Lafi's strike, we have been trying to find him a suitable job as a poet either in Jordan or abroad," Mr. Abu Ein said.

The secretary general added that the ministry was unable to offer Mr. Lafi a job that meets his qualifications "because Mr. Lafi does not carry the required degree."

Employment at any ministry or government institute, Mr. Abu Ein explained, requires that the job-seeker apply to the Civil Service Commission, then they will be appointed at various government institutes.

"One of the main criteria for employment at the ministry is to have a degree, which Mr. Lafi lacks," Mr. Abu Ein told the Jordan Times.

He added that exceptions could be made if the higher authorities decide to grant him a job.

"All we are capable of doing at the ministry is to support publishing his work or purchase some of his published collections and offer him a reward," Mr. Abu Ein explained.

Mr. Lafi began writing poetry in 1973 and has published six collections of his works. He participated in several Arab and local poetry festivals.

"It is an open strike, and unless I am granted a suitable job that fits my qualifications as a poet by government institutes, I am planning to starve myself to death," Mr. Lafi said.

"I am not looking for a fortune or money, all I want is to be able to provide a living away from my political beliefs, whereby I can write poetry which is my real fortune in life," he said.

Islamic council recommends 19-point plan for economic recovery

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Council of Islamic Organisations and Societies in Jordan (CIOSJ) Monday handed the government its 19-point plan, said to help improve the country's economic situation and help adjust the balance of payments.

The plan, sent to the Prime Minister and the speakers of the Senate and the Lower House of Parliament, suggested mainly the reduction of governmental staff including a proposal to replace ministers' female secretaries with male ones, as women are, the organisation stressed, usually either financially supported by their husbands or tend to spend their salaries on non-essential commodities.

The plan comprises the following points and comments:

1 — Reduce the number of ministers in the cabinet to 17 down from 31. Japan with a population of 125-million people has only 20 ministers, compared to Jordan where four and half million people are governed by 31 ministers. These ministers are costing the country a fortune paid by the Jordanian taxpayers. In addition to their salaries, they receive per diems during their stays abroad, pensions for life and other allowances.

2 — Close several Jordanian embassies abroad, especially those in remote countries which do not maintain any cultural, tourist or economic ties with Jordan. The embassy staff in these countries spend their time in recreational affairs concentrating only on their personal affairs and personal interests. Many countries reduced the number of embassies to cut on spending.

3 — Reduce to a bare minimum the number of employees in Jordan's embassies or consulates abroad.

4 — Levy a three per cent tax on Jordanian people's investments in foreign banks.

5 — Abolish all forms of extravagance and lavish spending on government offices especially upon the formation of new cabinets or the replacement of secretaries general of ministries. The renting of new buildings should be avoided due to higher rents.

6 — Avoid the use of any luxury cars: only the prime minister is entitled to use a Mercedes. In other countries ministers use small cars or bicycles.

7 — Each Jordanian working abroad or receiving a salary from abroad should be charged a sum of JD 50 annually for the benefit of the treasury.

8 — Free use of government-owned cars by officials for their personal and family

benefit should be stopped to save money on fuel and maintenance.

9 — Reduce the number of conferences and seminars held in Jordan if the costs have to be borne by the government.

10 — Stop the practice of sending senior officials abroad for medical treatment if the state has to pay the bill.

11 — Reduce to a minimum the number of private telephones installed by the state in the homes of senior officials. These telephones are most often used for personal matters which the taxpayers have to pay.

12 — Stop the import of foreign experts unless it is necessary. It has been proven that foreign experts' knowledge does not exceed that of the local experts but receive higher wages than the locals.

13 — Issue a governmental statement that it will purchase locally-produced wheat at JD 300 a tonne in order to encourage farmers to produce cereals more than tomatoes, tobacco, cucumbers and bananas.

14 — Cancel any per diem payments to ministers and senior officials for attending conferences abroad whenever they are invited by the foreign country which normally foots their bills. Jordanian taxpayers should not pay for the ministers' gifts to their families and friends.

15 — Resort to legal means that let influ-

ential people pay their electricity and water bills on an equal footing with ordinary citizens. A great number of influential personalities are indebted several million dinars for water and electricity consumption which they continue to receive free of charge.

16 — Employ males as secretaries for ministers rather than females because males need the job to support families while a female usually is supported by her parents or husband. Many secretaries spend their income on buying non-essential commodities. Some of them even borrow from their parents to buy luxury items. Some of the female secretaries come from wealthy families and only want to kill time at work and so deprive the needy of earning an income.

17 — Reconsider the education policy forcing universities and colleges to provide training in fields needed by the local community. Also 50 per cent of the school graduates should be trained in a trade.

18 — Deal with problems concerning semi-governmental firms facing losses mainly due to mismanagement.


19 — Grant the Audit Bureau more control over public spending.



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Remains returned as North Korean gets hero's welcome

PANMUNJOM, Korea (R) — North Korea Monday returned remains believed to be those of a U.S. pilot missing since the Korean War shortly after giving a hero's welcome to a soldier who had drifted to South Korea on a swollen river.

Both the handovers took place at the border village of Panmunjom, the only crossing point to the demilitarized zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas.

North Korean soldiers handed over an aluminium casket containing the remains to honour guards of the U.S.-led United Nations Command, who draped it with a blue U.N. flag.

The remains were found in a joint U.S.-North Korean search near the suspected crash site of a U.S. Air Force F-80C fighter some 100 kilometres north of Pyongyang, U.S. officials said.

Shortly before the ceremony North Korean Sergeant Kim Young-Kil walked over to the northern part of the zone, shouting: "Hooray dear leader Comrade Kim Jong-Il."

Kim was found Friday clinging to a log in the Imjin River in the South and was picked up by police under a bridge. The river flows through the heavily fortified DMZ.

The Seoul Defence Ministry said he told investiga-

tors that he had accidentally reached the South and wanted to go back.

More than 50 North Korean civilians and soldiers, some holding flowers, cheered and applauded as they saw Mr. Kim, who had changed into a new army uniform provided by the North.

One North Korean lifted the 20-year-old Kim on to the shoulders of another soldier as he waved at the cheering crowd.

The return of the U.S. soldier's remains was a sign of slowly improving relations between Washington and Pyongyang, which have increased contacts since they signed a landmark nuclear pact in 1994.

Under the agreement, Pyongyang has frozen its suspected nuclear weapons programme in return for a promise by Washington to provide Western nuclear reactors and interim energy supplies.

The United States has since sought a policy of engagement.

"The recovery and repatriation of the remains today represents a significant step forward in our efforts to account for the missing men in the Korean War," said Alan Liotta, director of Prisoner of War/Missing in Action programmes at the Pentagon.

Mr. Liotta told reporters in

Panmunjom that the remains were the first discovery by a 10-member U.S. team, consisting of nine U.S. servicemen and one State Department official. The team began their operations with the North Koreans on July 10.

Mr. Liotta said the team, scheduled to leave North Korea Tuesday, did not find the remains at the original site where witnesses said the plane had crashed.

"During the course of interviewing some of the witnesses, one witness, however, identified a burial site of a U.S. soldier that was about 20 minutes away (by car) from the crash site," he said. "This is where we recovered the remains."

Mr. Liotta said another joint search operation was due to be carried out in September.

There are 8,100 U.S. troops unaccounted for from the 1950-53 Korean War, which has left the two Koreas at loggerheads.

The joint search was allowed after Washington paid the North \$2 million in May for its past help in recovering remains.

Mr. Liotta said the U.S. did not pay for the remains but would compensate the North for the land destroyed during the search.

"As part of negotiations with the North Koreans, we

did agree to compensate them for the farmland which we destroyed as part of the process," he said, but did not know the full amount.

Meanwhile South Korea has donated \$50,000 to help North Korea purchase new weather forecasting equipment, officials said Monday as both the South and the North recovered from torrential rains.

"South Korea sent \$50,000 to North Korea on July 18 through the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)," a Unification Ministry spokesman told AFP.

The donation followed an appeal to the WMO by the North, which was hit by devastating floods last year, for aid for the new equipment.

It also followed a pledge last month by Seoul, in a softening of its frosty relations with Pyongyang, to send \$3 million in aid to help ease rampant food shortages in the North, which were worsened by the floods.

"The weather issue, related to a natural calamity, should be dealt with unattached to political issues," said the spokesman, adding that closer inter-Korean cooperation in the field was "desperately needed."

Torrential rains which lashed the center of the peninsula Friday through Sunday left 86 dead and missing in the South and southern weather forecasters said they expected the North's crops to suffer for a second straight year.

The WMO, which has 173 member countries including both Koreas, was expected to collect more than \$100,000 for the equipment for North Korea, officials said.

Seoul is awaiting a reply from North Korea on a proposal for four-party talks to work out a permanent peace regime on the Korean peninsula.

The North has yet to accept or refuse the offer, made in April by U.S. President Bill Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young-Sam. The proposed talks envisage Washington and Beijing playing a support role.



North Korean soldier Kim Young-Kil, wearing a wreath given him by his countrymen, is carried on the shoulders of his colleagues after being repatriated back to North Korea at the truce village of Panmunjom Monday. Kim was found last week clinging to a log in a river in South Korean territory, and asked to be repatriated back to the North (Reuters photo)

Clinton sees China, Russia as security questions — paper

NEW YORK (R) — China and Russia's future course will be one of the great security questions of the next century, U.S. President Bill Clinton told the New York Times in an interview published Monday.

Mr. Clinton said the "unfinished business of leaving the cold war behind," including relations with Russia and China, had been a major part of his foreign policy framework since taking office in 1993.

The Times said the interview was conducted earlier this month. It was published Monday as part of an article examining Mr. Clinton's record on foreign policy.

"I believe among the great security questions of the 21st century — and there are, you know, five or six really big questions — one

of them is how will China and Russia define their greatness?" he said.

"Will they define their greatness in terms of their internal achievements and what kind of values and character they have, what kind of economic achievements they can have ... how they can solve their problems?"

Mr. Clinton, who is seeking reelection in November, said the other elements of his policy framework were dealing with such security threats as ethnic bloodletting and terrorism and designing trade accords.

Such commercial accords as the general agreement on tariffs and trade and the North American Free Trade Agreement linking the United States, Mexico and Canada helped build "a new

structure of opportunity and peace."

"It seems to me that if America is at the centre of these emerging (trade) networks, it dramatically increases our leverage to work with people for peace, for human rights and for stability in the world," he said.

He said he had decided to drop the threat of revoking China's most-favoured-nation trading status since carrying it out would not change China's human rights policies.

"We would risk creating a new, I hesitate to say, cold war, but a very long-term fissure with a country that I think we still have some chance of influencing in a very positive way, to be a constructive partner in the 21st century," Mr. Clinton said.

Nepali man, 139, wants to die early

KATHMANDU (R) — One of the oldest men on Earth is tired of life and wants an early death. "Oh, God it's too long a life. I am tired," Bir Narayan Choudhury, 139 years old, told the Kathmandu Post newspaper in his Himalayan village of Khanar in eastern Nepal. "God listen (to) my prayer," the newspaper quoted him as saying Monday. "Give me instant death." Mr. Choudhury has defied the law of averages in the world's only Hindu kingdom, one of the poorest nations in the world with an average life expectancy of 54 years. He may be tired of life, but still enjoys dreaming. "In my dreams, the klog comes in an aeroplane to see me," Mr. Choudhury said.

Pakistani kills defiant drug-addict brother

ISLAMABAD (R) — A villager in Pakistan's Punjab province shot dead his brother who had refused to give up heroin, the official APP news agency said. It said addict Ashraf Khan, living near the industrial town of Faisalabad, had ignored repeated admonitions by his father Abdul Rahman and brother Wali Khan and begun stealing goods from neighbours' houses to pay for heroin. The family again tried to persuade Ashraf to give up heroin, APP said. "On his refusal, Wali Khan shot him dead with a pistol." Police had registered a case and were investigating.

Serbian family takes chickens on holiday

BELGRADE (R) — A Serbian family from the town of Sabac gave a new meaning to the idea of a self-catering holiday when they brought 14 live hens on their summer vacation, state-run Tanjug news agency said. The family took the chickens to a camping site near the popular resort of Budva on the Montenegrin coast, Tanjug said. According to the camp manager, the family complained that poultry products were far too expensive in the Budva markets. Tanjug said the family from western Serbia enjoyed fresh eggs for the first few days, followed by roast chicken for the rest of their holiday.

Italian jail dodger behind bars after miscarriage

BOLOGNA, Italy (R) — A woman who killed her husband but avoided imprisonment by becoming pregnant four times was finally jailed after she had a miscarriage. Italian newspapers said, Maria Di Giuseppe was sentenced in 1993, together with her lover, to 24 years imprisonment for the murder of her husband. Police in the northern town of Bologna had repeatedly tried to arrest her, but Italian law does not allow pregnant women to be jailed. Di Giuseppe, 35, has seven children, three of them born since her conviction. The newspapers said she was traced by police this week after she was forced to go into hospital because of a miscarriage.

Doctor takes 63 rusted iron nails out of patient

TAIPEI (AFP) — A doctor has removed 63 rusted iron nails from a mentally-disturbed patient who swallowed them in a bid to soothe his anxiety, the China Times Express reported Friday. Doctor Lin Ying-Ling of Hua Chi Hospital in the central county of Chiayi said the patient started swallowing iron nails in 1987 in several suicide attempts then developed the habit as a means to soothe his anxiety. The patient was in stable condition after the operation, Dr. Lin told the paper.

Rebels kill 6 Russian troops, bid to retake Bamut fails

MOSCOW (AFP) — Chechen rebels killed six Russian troops in attacks in the past 24 hours, including a new assault on federal forces in the ruined southwestern village of Bamut, the federal command said Monday.

Eighteen federal troops were wounded in the clashes, Interfax News Agency quoted the command as saying.

There was no independent confirmation of the figures or any report of rebel casualties.

Interior Ministry troops defending Bamut Sunday

repulsed attacks by up to 60 rebels on their positions in two places, the command said.

Several troops were wounded in the clashes in Bamut, where intense fighting has raged for several days.

The command did not specify where the six Russian soldiers were killed. A group of up to 100 rebels also tried to storm Bamut overnight to Friday, but they were repulsed by Russian forces, a spokesman for the federal Interior Ministry troops told Interfax earlier.

Russian troops seized Bamut at the end of May after besieging it for months with overwhelming firepower.

The village, where a few dozen rebels were holed up, was blasted with rockets, warplanes and heavy artillery, and came to symbolise the Chechen resistance.

Some 40,000 people, mostly civilians, have died in the conflict, triggered by a massive Russian military intervention in December 1994 aimed at crushing the Chechen independence drive.

Opposition leader may face questioning after Indonesia riot

JAKARTA (R) — A senior Indonesian minister said Monday that the government might question ousted opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri following the worst disturbances in Jakarta in more than 20 years.

"Perhaps she will be called in for questioning," the coordinating minister for political and security affairs, Susilo Sudarman, told reporters after meeting President Suharto.

The weekend riots broke out after police took over the headquarters of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) and evicted activists who had occupied the building in support of Ms. Megawati, the daughter of the late President Sukarno.

Ms. Megawati had been ousted as party leader by a government-backed faction last month.

She said Sunday that the riots were tragic but blamed the officially-backed party rebels for provoking the violence. Her supporters had occupied the headquarters for about a month.

Mr. Sudarman said the government would take action according to the law against those involved in the rioting.

He said the authorities might question Ms. Megawati on why the PDI

headquarters had been used for meetings at which he said "curses and obscenities were hurled at the government."

He said the weekend riots, in which 10 buildings and a number of vehicles were set ablaze, had involved a third party he named as the People's Democratic Party (PRD).

He said the PRD was synonymous with the banned Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI).

"Therefore we ask people as a whole to be vigilant," he added.

Troops Monday guarded key intersections in the area of Jakarta hit by weekend riots, but life appeared to have returned to normal in the Indonesian capital after the worst disturbances in more than 20 years.

The official Antara news agency quoted the chief of the Armed Forces' Socio-Political Affairs Department, Lieutenant-General Syarwan Hamid, as saying 206 people had been arrested after the riots and could be charged with subversion.

Financial markets Monday were hit by the disturbances. The rupiah dropped sharply in early trading and recovered marginally, while the stock market index plunged more than four per

cent in late morning trade.

Soldiers armed with assault rifles guarded key intersections and government buildings on Jalan Salemba Raya, the main thoroughfare in the worst-hit Salemba district, as spectators milled around the entrances of buildings gutted by fire and looting Saturday.

Employees of two banks gutted by the fire in the area turned up to work Monday, but only to be told to come back pending further notice.

Elsewhere, military armoured vehicles stood guard in the area near the statues of Indonesian late founding President Sukarno and Vice-President Mohammad Hatta, where at least three buildings were set on fire by protesters Saturday.

At least two people died and 10 buildings set ablaze during the violence, which many residents said was the worst seen in the city since anti-Japan riots in 1974, triggered by anger at Japanese investment in Indonesia.

The country was under Japanese occupation in World War II.



North Korean soldier Kim Young-Kil is accompanied by U.S. Colonel Ashton Ornes (yellow armband) and a U.S. military policeman prior to being repatriated back to North Korea at Camp Bonifas near the demilitarized zone Monday (Reuters photo)

Typhoon Herb adds to Asia weather misery

MANILA (R) — Typhoon Herb gathered strength in the Pacific Ocean Monday, threatening more death and destruction as widespread areas of Asia were already struggling to cope with the effects of a devastating spell of weather.

Floods from torrential rains and overflowing rivers have killed more than 1,600 people across China this year, inundated millions of hectares of farmland and forced many factories to stop production.

Officials said they were ready for an onslaught from Typhoon Herb as they had completed their annual preparations for the summer typhoon season.

In South Korea, about 90 people were feared killed by floods and landslides caused by torrential rains over the past three days, Seoul government officials said Monday.

Torrential rains that hit the Korean peninsula last week are likely to have caused serious damage to crops in North Korea, already facing an acute food shortage, analysts in South Korea said Monday.

North Korea's top meteorologist has issued a flood warning, saying that there had been rain of up to 496 mm in some places in the southwest of the country since last Wednesday.

Typhoon Herb follows hard on the heels of Typhoon Gloria, which hammered the Philippines Friday and Saturday, triggering volcanic mudflows, landslides and floods that killed at least 39 people.

Typhoon Herb could be even more ferocious. A

government forecaster in the Philippines said Herb could develop into a super-typhoon — a loose term for storms with sustained winds of over 200 kph (120 mph).

Taiwan, which could also lie in the path of the latest typhoon, warned all fishing vessels to be on the alert.

"If Herb's direction and speed do not change, it should bring heavy rain and strong winds to the land Wednesday. It is much stronger than Gloria," said a weather official.

Herb would be the second typhoon to hit Taiwan in 1996 after Gloria, which brought landslides in southern Taiwan, killed two people and ravaged 580 million Taiwan dollars (\$21 million) worth of crops.

In Bangladesh, injured to natural disasters, water purifying tablets were distributed and more people evacuated their homes to escape flood waters in the densely populated capital Dhaka.

Officials in 37 flood-hit districts said at least 65 people had died in the floods and nearly 20 others of disease.

They said some 10,000 people were suffering from diarrhoea across northern Bangladesh.

The floods started to inundate Bangladesh more than two weeks ago after heavy rain and water rushing in from India made rivers overflow.

So far, about 500,000 people have been made homeless, local officials estimated.

Hurricane devastates Central America

MANAGUA (AFP) — Hurricane Cesar's fierce winds and heavy rains cut a swath of destruction through Central America Sunday and claimed 23 lives, including some after being downgraded to a tropical depression.

Cesar by late Sunday had passed through El Salvador with relatively mild winds ranging from 32-55 kilometres per hour, and brought downpours but little damage, said Salvadoran meteorologist Raul Murillo.

The rains were expected to continue to fall in El Salvador overnight into Monday and residents near riverbanks were put on alert, he said.

But the biggest worry now was that after losing strength as it crossed the Central American isthmus, the storm would pick up strength again along the Pacific and be reborn as Hurricane Douglas, Mr. Murillo said.

Only hours earlier Cesar was packing maximum sustained winds of 130 kilometres an hour and battering Costa Rica and Little Corn Island off Nicaragua's Caribbean coast near Bluefields late Saturday, said Deputy Social Action Minister Brooklin Rivera in a phone interview from Bluefields on Managua Radio.

"We lost communication with Costa Rica when the winds began to whip up hard," Mr. Rivera said.

Cesar first struck Venezuela as a tropical storm last week, dumping driving rain on hillside slums in Caracas and causing landslides and home collapses that killed four people.

Cesar hit Colombia's Caribbean coast Friday, killing five people in the coastal cities of Santa Marta, Barranquilla and Cartagena.

It was Central America's turn over the weekend, as Cesar killed 10 people in Costa Rica and four in Nicaragua.

Cesar flooded Managua shantytowns on the shores of Lake Managua and partially destroyed small, fragile homes made of wood and sheets of zinc, plastic and cardboard, according to authorities who reported receiving desperate calls for help.

Costa Rica sustained worse than expected damage with at least 10 fatalities, another 39 people missing, some 4,400 people homeless with homes washed into rivers in the country's south and several highways washed out, officials said.

The Costa Rican government declared a national emergency and released the equivalent of \$1.5 million to hire equipment to repair highways.

The country's low-lying Caribbean coast "is practically cut off by mudslides and overflowing rivers. The waters have reached unexpectedly high levels and 32 towns have been cut off," the National Emergency Commission said in a statement.



Nepali man, 18, wants to die

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Pakistani kills defiant drug-addict brother

Serbian farmer takes chickens, holiday

ops, ils

Italian jail doc behind bars, miscarriage

ce riot

Doctor takes 5 trusted iron nail out of patient



Members of Greenpeace Japan shout in protest against China's latest nuclear test in front of Chinese embassy in Tokyo Friday. China conducted an underground nuclear test Monday and immediately followed it with a statement saying this would be its last such test (Reuters photo)

Taiwan further eases restrictions on contacts with mainland China

TAIPEI (AFP) — In a further relaxation of links with mainland China, Taiwan gave approval Monday for high ranking officials to visit the mainland, a government official said.

"We will add in our mainland relation law a clause to allow heads of the provinces, counties and cities to visit mainland China," said Kao Kung-Lian, vice-chairman of the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC). Taiwan's top mainland planning body.

Taiwan has for the last five years allowed certain private visits to China, but never until now has it given the green light for its highest officials to visit.

Taiwan is China's second-largest foreign investor, after Hong Kong.

But Taipei has banned direct contact with its mainland rival since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949, when the defeated nationalists were driven onto this island.

There are no non-stop flights between the two, nor are there direct postal, financial, or telecommunications links.

The reconciliatory move

came as tensions between Taiwan and the mainland have been easing following China's military exercises in the Taiwan Strait in March. Scores of middle-ranking Chinese officials and experts have poured onto Taiwan in the course of the last month.

Under the new rules, the heads elected to the 24 local governments will be allowed to visit China. Subject to government approval, they can go to take part in cultural and educational activities, or for international conferences or important affairs requiring a visit to the mainland, Mr. Kao said.

Mr. Kao said MAC will also permit Chinese journalists to apply to be based in Taiwan for a maximum of two years, a decision which the government once resisted for fear that journalists posted there could be undercover agents.

Chang King-Yuh, MAC chairman, said the new decision is aimed at "increasing understanding between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait" and to pave the way for gradually increasing "friendly cross-strait interactions."

Chiao Jen-Ho, vice-chairman of the semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) which represents the government in talks with China, called on Beijing to quickly resume talks with Taiwan — suspended in July last year shortly after Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui visited the United States, a trip seen by Beijing as an attempt to promote Taiwan's independence.

China, which has viewed Taiwan as a rebel province, staged six sets of wargames close to Taiwan between July and March, to try to intimidate the island and deter it from declaring independence.

Tensions between the two sides have eased since Mr. Lee offered in May to visit China and hold peace talks with leaders there.

The easing of relations has been reflected by visits in the past three weeks of at least four large groups of Chinese officials and experts from mainland barbour authorities, and the financial, banking, and meteorological sectors.

Okinawa mounts new legal challenge over U.S. military occupation

TOKYO (AFP) — Launching a fresh legal challenge against the expropriation of land for the U.S. military, Okinawa accused the Japanese central government Monday of illegally occupying a plot inside a naval facility.

Central government representatives told the Naha branch of the Fukushima High Court that Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota damaged public interest by refusing to take steps to lease the land for the military after the landowner refused.

But representatives for Okinawa prefecture said the central government had been "illegally occupying the land" since the lease

expired on March 31.

"The U.S. bases in Okinawa are the origin of various evils and their existence is most suitably described as a hindrance of the public interest," they said.

The hearing Monday followed a lawsuit filed by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on July 12. The suit takes issue with Mr. Ota's refusal to publicise documents on the expropriation of a 236 square metre plot inside a U.S. naval telecommunications facility in the village of Yomitan.

Shoichi Chibana, the 48-year-old shopkeeper who owns the land, has refused to renew the lease amid anti-base sentiment on the

southern island following the rape of a 12-year-old schoolgirl by three U.S. servicemen last September.

In the first such action since Okinawa reverted to Japanese rule in 1972, Chibana filed a suit last week seeking the return of the land along with compensation of 10,000 yen (\$92) a day from April 1.

Although Okinawa houses 28,000 of the 47,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan as well as three-quarters of the U.S. military facilities in the country, the prefecture accounts for less than one per cent of Japan's total land area.

Dhaka intensifies battle against floods

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh Monday distributed water purifying tablets and more people evacuated their homes to escape rising flood waters in the densely populated capital Dhaka, witnesses said.

They said distributors hired by the city corporation went door to door, telling residents not to drink floodwater or eat rotten food to save them from an outbreak of diarrhoea.

Local officials in 37 flood-hit districts said at least 65 people had died in the floods and nearly 20 others of disease.

They said some 10,000 people were suffering from diarrhoea across northern Bangladesh.

A few people had also died from snake bites, offi-

cials in the districts of Gaihandha and Sirajganj told reporters.

The floods started to inundate Bangladesh more than two weeks ago after heavy rain and water rushing in from India made rivers overflow.

So far, about 500,000 people have been made homeless, local officials estimated. They put the number affected across Bangladesh at up to 30 million, or a quarter of the country's population.

Weather officials said they expect more rain in the next few days.

The overall situation in the country's north continued to improve Monday with floodwater receding fast while it worsened in and around Dhaka, in the

country's south, relief officials said.

They described the floods as the country's worst since 1988 when two-thirds of Dhaka, a city of nine million, went under water, forcing the then government to call for international aid.

This year, the five-week-old government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said it would not seek foreign help immediately.

"We can still handle the floods by ourselves," one Relief Ministry official said Monday.

Other officials said Bangladesh, which imports nearly two million tonnes of foodgrain every year, would face "bigger pressure" because of the floods.

Thousands flee rebel town in Sri Lanka war

COLOMBO (R) — The offensive against rebels in north Sri Lanka has sent tens of thousands of people fleeing in confusion, uncertain where the next battle will be, aid workers and diplomats said Monday.

Most of the 150,000 people in Kilinochchi have fled ahead of the army advance, now paused on the fringes of the rebel town, Sri Lankan aid workers said.

The army, backed by helicopter gunships, tanks and air force bombers, was moving slowly, consolidating captured territory and clearing mines and booby traps left by the retreating Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

A military communique said Monday the clearing operations were continuing around the road junction town of Paranthan, which was seized Friday on the first day of the offensive.

It said soldiers were being harassed by rebel mortar fire that had caused a few casualties, and the air force was attacking the mortar positions.

Diplomats said the army might be waiting for all civilians to leave Kilinochchi before entering it. The town sits along Sri Lanka's main north-south highway for some six to eight kilometres up to Paranthan.

They said the army might fear political repercussions if there were civilian casualties.

Aid workers said they could not confirm the LTTE allegations of civilian casualties from the artillery strikes in Kilinochchi but that they knew of few civilian wounded in the town.

The aid workers, speaking from Vavuniya, which is separated from the military push by a long swathe of rebel-held territory, said people were fleeing south from Kilinochchi carrying the little food they could.

Diplomats, speaking anonymously, said the situation was confused and many of the refugees did not know where to go.

There is no major town between Kilinochchi and Vavuniya, and fighting between the military and the rebels was continuing in several areas.

"Everything is confused. These people are fleeing, but many of them don't know where to go for safety," one diplomat said.

The aid workers said many refugees appeared heading for the bush and away from the road the army was trying to reopen after years in rebel hands. Opening the road would let the military supply the Jaffna peninsula more easily and cheaply.

China heralds moratorium with last nuclear test

BEIJING (R) — China Monday carried out a final nuclear test at an underground site, saying the blast heralded a moratorium on testing that would push the world closer to the dream of nuclear disarmament.

The explosion at the Lop Nor nuclear testing ground in northwestern China's Xinjiang region came as international negotiators prepared for talks in Geneva to try to hammer out a global ban on nuclear testing.

"China successfully conducted a nuclear test today," the official Xinhua News Agency said. "The Chinese government hereby solemnly declares that it will start a moratorium on nuclear testing effective from July 30, 1996."

"Halting nuclear tests is an important step toward nuclear disarmament," said Xinhua, Beijing's mouthpiece.

The Australian Geological Survey Organisation said the Chinese underground nuclear test measured 4.3 on the Richter scale and yielded an explosion equivalent to between one and five kilotonnes of TNT explosives.

China's decision to order an indefinite halt to nuclear testing was a response to the appeals of non-nuclear states and a concrete move to promote disarmament, Xinhua said.

Beijing, the last declared nuclear power to announce a halt to testing, exploded a larger device on June 8 and said then it would carry out one more blast before September, to be followed by a moratorium.

The June test drew widespread international criticism, but analysts said the response was relatively muted because of the simultaneous announcement of the moratorium and by China's move to shelve some objections to a planned worldwide test ban.

Diplomats and analysts said China's final test blast came earlier than expected and appeared timed to coincide with the start of talks in Geneva on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

"It allows them to show a goodwill gesture to the Geneva talks... (and puts) China in a good diplomatic position in the test ban talks," Hong Kong-based China analyst Tai Ming Cheung said in a telephone interview.

A Beijing-based diplomat said: "Now they've done the test they can get down to negotiating the test ban treaty."

Negotiations on the global accord were scheduled to restart Monday after a month's break, with the United States and Russia expected to spearhead an intensive effort to wrap up

negotiations and push for a treaty text by the end of the week.

Beijing officials have said they are optimistic the CTBT can be concluded this year, despite disagreement on how to monitor compliance.

The treaty is intended to extend existing accords that ban nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in space and underwater to include underground explosions.

China and India have reservations about the proposed text, but U.S. and Russian officials are confident Beijing can be brought on board for a compromise agreement that would allow the treaty to be open for signature from September.

Beijing was ready to work with other nations to achieve the ban by the end of the year, Xinhua said, adding that the major nuclear powers should abandon their policies of nuclear deterrence and continue to reduce their weapons stockpiles.

States with nuclear weapons deployed outside their borders should withdraw them and no country should develop or deploy missile defence systems or space-based weapons systems that could undermine strategic security and stability, it said.

The agency said nuclear disarmament was not an impossible dream. "If mankind can produce nuclear weapons in the 20th century, it can very well destroy such weapons in the 21st century," it said.

Meanwhile China's latest nuclear test Monday drew critical reactions from several regional powers despite Beijing's announcement that this was the final blast before a self-imposed moratorium.

The test came just ahead of Monday's resumption in Geneva of the United Nations-sponsored disarmament conference, which is trying to wrap up negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said he hoped China had conducted its final nuclear test, while anti-nuclear groups in the only country to suffer nuclear attack said the latest blast was inexcusable.

"There is nothing else to say except that I really hope this is the last one," Mr. Hashimoto told reporters.

"Especially at a time when (the international community) is trying to persuade India to join in the CTBT,"

India and China have reservations about the proposed text of the CTBT, but U.S. and Russian officials are confident Beijing can be brought on board for a compromise agreement that

would allow the treaty to be open for signature from September.

There was no immediate Indian reaction to China's test, and a Foreign Ministry official suggested there may not be one.

"I don't think we have ever reacted to Chinese nuclear tests," a senior official told Reuters.

In Hiroshima, site of the world's first atomic bombing, a group of bomb survivors noted with "dismay" that the Chinese test took place only a week before the 51st anniversary of the atomic bombing on Aug. 6.

"China's name will go down in history as the nation which conducted nuclear tests right up to the end," said a statement by Kosiro Kondo of the Hiroshima Confederation of A-bomb Sufferers Organisations.

"It was inexcusable," the statement added.

Australia called in China's ambassador in Canberra to protest against the test.

"I told the Chinese ambassador that Australia deeply regretted the decision by the Chinese government to proceed with the nuclear test," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told reporters.

But Mr. Downer said he told Ambassador Hue Gunduo that Canberra welcomed Beijing's announcement of a moratorium.

"The ending of Chinese nuclear testing means that no nuclear weapons state is any longer conducting nuclear tests," Mr. Downer said. "This test we had today we hope will be the last nuclear test that will ever take place."

New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger said the Chinese test was particularly disappointing because it had occurred the same day the CTBT negotiations resumed in Geneva.

"Although we welcome China's earlier undertaking that it will henceforth observe a moratorium on testing, China must go further," he said in a statement. "China should respect the will of the international community and cease testing for all time."

South Korea expressed its deep regret over China's latest nuclear test, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said Monday.

"The Korean government strongly urges China to sincerely adhere to its moratorium on nuclear testing effective on July 30 and to also contribute to international endeavours towards the early conclusion of the comprehensive test ban treaty," the ministry said in a statement.

Nyerere says Burundi faces fate of Rwanda

BUJUMBURA (R) — African statesman Julius Nyerere said Monday Burundi was in danger of becoming another Rwanda, where up to a million people were slaughtered in a 1994 genocide.

Mr. Nyerere said Burundi, which has the same explosive tribal mix of Hutus and Tutsis as its Central African neighbour, could go the same way after a Tutsi army coup last week.

"We are running the danger of another Rwanda, and it is no use anybody fooling themselves," he told the British Broadcasting Corporation's radio service for Africa by telephone from Tanzania.

Mr. Nyerere, given the job by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) of solving the Burundi crisis, said the coup by Tutsi strongman Pierre Buyoya last Thursday was unacceptable.

Mr. Buyoya seized power after the Tutsi army deposed President Sylvestre Ntibunganya. Some commentators say Mr. Buyoya is less radical than other Tutsi leaders in Burundi.

But Mr. Nyerere said that did not make his coup acceptable.

"This thing is an illegal act," he said.

OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim has said Mr. Buyoya must go and African leaders are determined to remove him. They meet Wednesday in Arusha, Tanzania, to decide on any action.

A summit in the same resort town last month ordered planning for troops to be sent from Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia, but Mr. Buyoya has rejected outside intervention in Burundi.

The Arusha plan can be rejected by Burundi. It was the (then) government which has appealed to the

leaders of the region to help them with security assistance," Mr. Nyerere said.

"If you reject that... fine, the leaders of the region have to think what next. There is no alternative except a negotiated settlement of their problems. Do you have any better solution?" Mr. Nyerere asked in the interview.

Mr. Buyoya has sounded a moderate line to the world after international condemnation of his seizure of power, promising to restore discipline to the Tutsi-led armed forces and to end repatriation of Rwandan Hutus who fled to Burundi in fear of retribution for the genocide of Tutsis in 1994.

He has promised to form a transitional government which all "peace-loving" Burundians can join, and is expected to meet foreign diplomats in Bujumbura later Monday.

Mr. Buyoya ruled the

country from 1987 to 1993, when he handed power over to Melchior Ndadaye, the Hutu winner of Burundi's first free multi-party elections.

Mr. Ndadaye was killed in a coup by soldiers after four months. Hutu politicians say Mr. Buyoya was involved in the coup which technically failed but was followed by reprisal massacres of 50,000 people.

Shortly before seizing power, Mr. Buyoya had talks with Hutu politicians and analysts say some Hutu support is vital to his long-term political survival.

Some 150,000 people have been killed in Burundi in three years of violence between Hutus, who are about 85 per cent of the population of 5.6 million, and Tutsis, who dominate the military and state apparatus. There are also small numbers of Twa.

Japan premier visits shrine, risking overseas anger

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto Monday visited a controversial shrine to the nation's war dead, including executed war criminals, breaking a decade-long taboo on Japanese leaders visiting the site.

In a surprise move that risked angering China, the United States and other nations that were victims of Japan's World War II actions, Mr. Hashimoto declared the time had come for Japan to stop apologising for honouring its war dead.

Mr. Hashimoto brushed aside suggestions that it was inappropriate for him as prime minister to visit Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, where 2.6 million Japanese who died in warfare since the 19th century are honoured.

"Why should it matter any more?" Mr. Hashimoto told reporters. "Surely it's time to stop letting that sort of thing complicate our international relations."

A controversy erupted in the mid-1980s over politicians visiting the memorial when it was disclosed that the Shinto place of worship also enshrined the remains of executed World War II criminals, including wartime Prime Minister General Hideki Tojo.

Some families have protested against the enshrining of Tojo and other war leaders, saying their spirits had no place among soldiers who were ordered to die on the battlefields.

But others have said there should be no distinction between those who died in battle and those executed for war crimes.

When Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone made an "official" visit to the shrine in 1985, China, South Korea, North Korea and other countries angrily protested.

Since then, no prime minister had visited Yasukuni.

Mr. Hashimoto's brief visit was out listed in his daily

schedule and he refused to say in what capacity he made the visit. Asked why he visited the shrine on this day, Mr. Hashimoto, 59, replied it was his birthday.

"I am not going to reply whether I went there in an official or private capacity," Mr. Hashimoto said. But he said he signed the shrine visitors book as "Ryutaro Hashimoto, prime minister."

It was not the first time the right-wing Hashimoto has flirted with controversy over World War II.

In October 1994 he set off a furore by saying in parliament that while Japan turned the Pacific into a war zone, its fight was not against Asian nations but against "the United States, England and others."

The most-closely watched day for visits to the shrine is Aug. 15, the date of Japan's World War II surrender.

Before becoming prime minister early this year, Mr. Hashimoto paid regular visits to the shrine, including on Aug. 15, in his capacity as head of the Japan bereaved families of war veterans association.

Mr. Hashimoto said that by visiting Monday, he had avoided making the pilgrimage on the Aug. 15 anniversary. "I'm also thinking of going on the day I got word of the death of my cousin in the war," Mr. Hashimoto said.

Shinto, Japan's ancient animistic religion, was the state religion until 1945, with the emperor as its spiritual head.

Some political analysts were surprised Mr. Hashimoto chose to visit the shrine in the midst of a row about how much compensation Japan should pay to so-called "comfort women."

They were non-Japanese women forced to work in brothels for Japanese soldiers in World War II.

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By Rami G. Khouri

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية - مؤسسة صحفية مستقلة - مؤسسة صحفية مستقلة - مؤسسة صحفية مستقلة

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Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 684311, 699634

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Opposing peace infrastructure?

IN ONE of his first decisions in office, hardline Israeli Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon expressed opposition to plans to build a joint Jordanian-Israeli airport in Aqaba. Sharon's opposition to the project, which was agreed upon between the Kingdom and the previous Labour government after the signing of the peace treaty in 1994, obviously stems from political and not economic reasons.

The feasibility of the project was studied by both sides and endorsed by international donors who expressed willingness to provide the necessary funds for it. The project would be a sign of the new spirit of peace that is slowly making itself felt in the region. It would be part of the peace dividend for both Jordanians and Israelis.

But it is obvious that Sharon does not subscribe to the new era of peace. His political beliefs are still moulded by the mentality of conflict that is still cherished by some Israeli politicians and had led to the wars and deprivation to which the region was for long subjected.

Sharon, who refused to endorse the Camp David agreement or the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, is obviously a representative of extremism in Israel's body politic which, fortunately, does not yet have full control in the Jewish state. The big fear for the future of the region comes from such politicians who can only push the region back into the abyss of conflict if they are allowed to transform their ideologies into state policies. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu can avert such a nightmarish development if he stops appeasing the hardliners in his government and if he resists their pressure. Netanyahu's responsibilities towards his people dictate that he proceed with full speed in the quest for peace in order to bring his country the security he says tops his priorities. The Israeli premier was obviously aware of the dangerous politics of Sharon when he first resisted including him in the cabinet. Eventually, however, he gave Sharon an important portfolio under pressure from hawkish members of the Likud and other parties. Netanyahu should not make any compromise to Sharon because every new compromise would entail a setback for the peace process which Israel needs as much as the Arabs do. The Israeli government should realise that peace does justify standing up to the voices of extremism.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDANIAN ECONOMIST Fahd Fanek, who writes for Al Ra'i, commented on the ongoing controversy over the lifting of subsidy on bread by saying that the government's decision was in conformity with the economic reform programme which Jordan had signed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). All Jordanian governments and parliaments, since the inception of this programme in 1989, have ratified the programme which is designed to put the Kingdom's economy back on track, he noted. The IMF programme is not a sword hanging over the Jordanian people's head but rather a vehicle designed to help Jordan secure a better economic future, guarantee continued financial and economic assistance from donor nations and help the country overcome the present economic hardship, said the writer. By ending the subsidies on various products and allowing market forces to control prices, Jordan can attain the aspired reform but, he said, non-abdication by the government reached with the IMF would simply prolong the ordeal.

ONE CAN only sympathise with the Kurdish prisoners staging a hunger strike in Turkish prisons, said a writer for Al Ra'i daily. The strikers are not demanding freedom from prison but an improvement of their conditions, which means less cruelty to them, noted Mahmoud Rimawi. The prisoners' demand has been totally ignored by the jailers who have no respect for the inmates and commit outrageous acts by violating their human rights, continued the writer. By placing the detainees in tiny cells and by denying them their basic human rights, the prison authorities have driven the inmates to desperation and made them go on a hunger strike that resulted in some deaths, he said. He said it is sad and regrettable to see a Turkish coalition government led by the Islamists not lifting a finger to end this sad situation.

The View from Fourth Circle

Counting brands of shampoo and types of colonialism

THE OTHER day, while I was wondering how the new world order was doing, I thought I would do some field research to find out. I went down to the Safeway supermarket and department store and did what any serious researcher or analyst would do — I counted the brands of shampoo and hair conditioner. The experience was magical. I am now aware that you can shampoo your hair with peach- or coconut-flavoured shampoo, with built-in conditioners made of the oils of an exotic tree from some South Pacific island, while simultaneously preventing dandruff and enriching your hair with fragrant oils — all for just two or three dinars, or less than five dollars.

What amazed me more than the rich variety of shampoos was the total number of brands, which took me about ten minutes to count. But first, some history. I had first counted the shampoos at Safeway about six months ago, initially by accident. Needing then to buy a small bottle of regular shampoo, I figured I would quickly stop at the shampoo stand and choose from the few brands available. I was surprised to find dozens of brands, which both made my choice more difficult and stimulated that little used part of my political consciousness that needed to understand the implications of a suddenly exploding shampoo sector in Jordan. So, I counted the shampoos late last year and found that there were around 125 different brands (including different sizes and variations of a single brand name).

When I visited Safeway two months later on a routine shopping mission, spontaneous curiosity compelled me to visit the shampoo section, to learn what had happened to that sector of human civilisation while I had not been monitoring it at my local mega-store. I immediately noticed a clear expansion in the size of the shampoo section; fascinated by the display of abundance, I counted the brands again. This time, there was a total of some 210 different brands. I was at once startled, impressed, and confused, for I could not understand what this abundance of shampoos and hair conditioners meant. Was it significant, hopeful, dangerous, or commercially and civilisationally neutral?

I did not think about the meaning of shampoos for several months, until the other day when I was in Safeway yet again on a brief shopping expedition, and — you guessed it — I was drawn to the shampoo aisle, feeling partly a pilgrim revisiting special ground and partly a scientist fascinated by the challenge of discovery and explanation. I was confronted again by the same spectacle of an ever-expanding shampoo section. So I did the only reasonable thing I could think of: I counted the brands once again. This time, the total came out to around 325.

(Note to the scientific community: This is a rough count. The actual figure may be 310 or 340. If anyone wants to replicate my field research for purposes of scientific confirmation, cross-cultural analysis, or simply for a good time, please note that my totals are subject to a + or - of three per cent; for after you get over the 200 mark and you are still counting shampoo brands, two things happen: 1) your eyes and mind both lose some sharpness, as once distinct images of shampoo bottles start to blur into one another and, 2) holding your position in front of the sham-

po aisle becomes ever more challenging due to the heavy traffic of people and shopping carts that neither respect the territorial imperative inherent in shampoo counting at Safeway nor the deep discipline and focused concentration inherent in the scientific research methodology.)

I knew with certitude that the advent of 325 brands of shampoos and conditioners was a significant matter; but I was not sure what it revealed about humankind's evolution or about the role played therein by small countries and economies like Jordan's. Is this what the promise of the "new world order" was all about?

"The single most important strategic objective for the industrial states of our world is not military any more; it is commercial. It is the continuous opening up of new markets of consumers around the world in order to maintain the growth rates of western corporations and the employment rates of western economies. This is neither sinister nor surprising, but merely a fact of life of capitalist history and the contemporary evolution of its free market imperative that we are adopting with enthusiasm and urgency."

Upon further analysis of the data that I had collected, I realised that most of the brands were imported, and only some were produced in Jordan. This told me that our cornucopia of shampoo was more a reflection of the globalisation of free trade, and less a result of indigenous industrialisation. Nevertheless, was it a positive thing, I wondered? How many people were employed to manufacture all these brands, ship them to Jordan, distribute them to retail shops and sell them to end-user consumers? How many exporters of shampoo would eventually manufacture their products in Jordan?

For Jordan, with its per capita gross domestic product of around \$1,500 or so and a population of just over four million, were our 325 brands of shampoo a sign of wealth or poverty, of strength or vulnerability? My instinct told me that 325 shampoos for Jordan was excessive, probably unnecessary, and perhaps even dangerous. I thought that it reflected an ethic of commercial overkill that was not sus-

tainable by our small domestic manufacturing base or the limited purchasing power of our population. I suspected that it manifested a new version of our traditional economic dependence on external sources of finance, capital goods and consumer products.

In the old world order, economic expenditures were tightly controlled by governments throughout the Middle East; but in the new world order governments tightened their belts, while consumers went on a shopping spree of dazzling proportions, because suddenly the whole world was selling its wares on our doorstep. In the old world order, developing states offered their strategic value to the superpowers, in return for cash, protection, accolades and other forms of sustenance. In the new world order, the validation, support and ultimate protection of developing countries come not from the governments of the industrialised democracies, but from their corporate sectors and commercial marketplaces.

The single most important strategic objective for the industrial states of our world is not military any more; it is commercial. It is the continuous opening up of new markets of consumers around the world in order to maintain the growth rates of western corporations and the employment rates of western economies. This is neither sinister nor surprising, but merely a fact of life of capitalist history and the contemporary evolution of its free market imperative that we are adopting with enthusiasm and urgency. Have we sufficiently analysed our role in this global process, and our costs and benefits?

My instincts tell me that this is both an opportunity and a danger for small developing countries like Jordan. It is a valuable opportunity if our integration into the free market global economy stimulates productivity and growth that are environmentally non-lethal, socially sensitive, and economically sustainable. It is a danger if we blindly fall into the trap of believing that we are modern, productive and secure simply because we are deemed a profitable export market for the world's leading producers of ice-cream, garden furniture and pizza.

If trade and economic globalisation finally mark the end of 19th century-style imperialism and colonialism and open the door to more equitable and mutually beneficial economic ties among states, we should welcome the process and shampoo like crazy for the rest of our days. But if we are merely replacing the previous century's territorial and political colonialism with a more modern, 20th century brand of commercial exploitation and cultural imperialism, then we should seriously assess our headlong rush into the global marketplace, and adjust our head-cleansing habits accordingly. Before deciding either way, though, we would do well to make the effort to analyse the cause, meaning and consequences of our 325 brands of shampoo, so that we benefit meaningfully from our engagement with global market forces instead of merely reacting to and serving them in a new form of faceless 21st century corporate colonial exploitation that may prove far more sinister than the 19th century type.

Terrorism is how the weak frighten and punish the strong

By Ronald Steel

NORWICH, Vermont — There is something both normal and frightening about Americans' reaction to the explosion that blew TWA Flight 800 out of the air and killed 230 innocent people.

Normal in that the unexplained destruction of any symbol of American power and influence — a military base, a government building, a corporate headquarters, an American-based airline — immediately leads us to suspect terrorists.

Frightening in that such acts lie beyond the customary rules of innocence and guilt, cause and effect, by which we organise our lives. If this should prove to be an accident rather than a crime, the best we will be able to say is that it was not terrorism this time.

Terrorism, the means by which the weak frighten and punish the strong, has become part of our lives. We are no longer shocked by it. We have even come to expect it.

Sometimes, as in the case of the World Trade Centre bombing, it comes bearing foreign accents and perplexing religious dogmas. Other times, as in Oklahoma City, it takes the form of the strangers who are one of us, with their familiar delusions of omnipotent enemies.

In truth they are one, the terrorists abroad and those at home; the ones we do not know and the ones we spawn. They are both products of a world whose rules they do not understand and which they feel does not understand them. They want to return to an earlier time in which they believe that they would have an honoured place. They are, to their minds, upholders of a true faith — a faith that, whatever its tenets, will put them among the winners rather than the losers, the respected rather than the ignored.

Although they are people whom, rightly or wrongly, time has passed by, they are very much creatures of their time. They have taken the technology of the strong and adapted it to their own ends.

Technology may be a liberating force, but what it unleashes resists and often defies those who create it. Chain reactions, whether in nuclear furnaces or the cauldron of ideas, are constantly in danger of going out of control. Just as a gun is a terrible leveller, erasing status and privilege in an instant, so are the most awesome weapons of a state.

The United States may be able to intimidate and other state with the sheer magnitude of its military power, but individual Americans are hopelessly vulnerable to those weapons in the hands of other individuals.

"Terrorism, the means by which the weak frighten and punish the strong, has become part of our lives. We are no longer shocked by it. We have even come to expect it."

Terrorism eradicates the distinction, so essential in international relations, between the state and the individual. States challenge one another or even go to war. The wars may be terrible. But they are, for the most part, fought by certain clear rules. States rarely try to assassinate one another's leaders.

Think how shocked the Americans were by the CIA schemes in the Kennedy administration to kill Fidel Castro. States do not want to make civilians targets without some compelling military justification. Consider the continuing difficulty we have explaining to ourselves the destruction of Dresden and Hiroshima. Responsible states do not torture or kill their prisoners.

When they do, we consider them guilty of war crimes.

States generally avoid such acts not because they operate under a higher moral code than do individuals, but because they fear retaliation in kind. Two can play the game of assassination and atrocity. Thus the "rules of war."

Terrorists have no interest in such distinctions. They operate outside the contrived world of state-sanctioned violence. This is the source of their weakness, but also of their strength.

They know that the kinds of retaliation that states use against one another — war, economic sanctions, embargoes — are useless against them. A few individuals may occasionally be caught — such as the bombers at Riyadh, the World Trade Centre and Oklahoma City — but the core group of true believers remains untouched.

Every modern state is highly vulnerable to such terrorism. Indeed, the more modern it is, the more technologically and sociologically complicated its structure, the more vulnerable it is. It takes only a power outage to shut down a great city, or an abandoned truck to instil fear among tens of thousands, as happened recently in Seattle.

The United States is not alone in being a target or being vulnerable. Ordinary civilians, the more innocent the better, have been targets of IRA and Algerian terrorists. The terrorist's objective is to neutralise power by assaulting it at its weakest link: public confidence.

Why the United States? Alas, the proper question is, why not the United States?

Just as the American government is the locus of power within the United States — and thus the logical target for rightist militia members who feel otherwise powerless — so the United States is the locus of power for a "new world order" that would render irrelevant traditional faiths and even whole societies. Americans pride them-

selves on being in the forefront of the modern, in being the world's leader. But not everyone finds that world as appealing, or even as inevitable, as we do. To many it is deeply threatening.

We proudly declare ourselves to be No. 1, the world's only remaining superpower. Naturally, the discontented of the world hold us responsible for their plight: their poverty, their ignorance, their weakness, their irrelevance.

A nation cannot be No. 1 when it suits its convenience and be "Who, little me?" when it doesn't. In status begin responsibilities. We so much take for granted not only our status but our standards that it hardly occurs to us that others may look upon them with alarm. We extol such principles as democracy, individualism, consumerism and the marketplace of ideas as though they were uncontested virtues.

We are sincerely puzzled when others find these notions threatening. We assume they must be either misinformed or obtuse. Like the Victorian traveller confronted by uncomprehending "natives," we start talking louder.

It was never the Soviet Union but the United States that was, and remains, the true revolutionary power. We believe that our institutions must confine all others to the "ash heap of history." We lead an economic system that has effectively buried every other form of production and distribution — leaving great wealth and sometimes great ruin in its wake.

We purvey a culture based on mass entertainment and mass gratification: one that extols hedonism and accumulation even as it describes them as individualism and abundance. The cultural messages we transmit through Hollywood and McDonald's go out across the world to capture, and also to undermine, other societies.

Unlike more traditional conquerors, we are not con-

tent merely to subdue others. We insist that they be like us — for their own good, or course. We Americans are the world's most relentless proselytisers.

The world must be democratic. It must be tied into the subversive messages of the World Wide Web. No wonder many feel threatened by what we represent. We are the apostles of globalisation, the enemies of tradition and hierarchy.

A chasm runs through the centre of the globe. On one side are the modernisers, with their absolute belief in science, rationality, individ-

ualism and progress. On the other are the defenders of the faith and moral certainty.

The war between modernisers and traditionalists will continue for a long time to come. Two worlds are in collision, and all of us are in the front lines.

The author, professor of international relations at the University of Southern California, is the author of "Temperaments of a Superpower." This article is reprinted from The New York Times.

LETTERS

Complaint heeded

To the Editor:

THE LETTER concerning pollution by the Fubeis cement factory, titled "Stop polluting" (Jordan Times, July 23, 1996) is worth stopping at, and the writer, George Saig, should be assured that the company's top priority at present is to upgrade the environmental performance of its production lines, especially in the Fubeis plant.

This is why the company has spent more than JD 11 million so far this year to upgrade production line No. 5; Jordan Cement Factories (JCF) has also awarded contracts for upgrading production line No. 6.

The company will soon invite bids for the construction of closed storage and handling facilities for raw materials. The cost of these three major environmental projects, in addition to other environmental devices, is estimated at JD 25 million. This demonstrates the commitment of the shareholders and the management of the company to the preservation of the environment and to shouldering their responsibilities in this regard.

We hope that Mr. Saig and all those concerned would recognise JCF's efforts and appreciate the determination of its shareholders and staff to reach international environmental standards governing this major and vital industry.

Ibrahim Al Gamaz,
Manager/Environmental Dept.,
Jordan Cement Factories Co.,
Fubeis.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Feature

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China

Moscow

Moscow

Times, Tuesday, July 30, 1996
By Rami G. Khouri
of colonialism

Features

Jordan Times, Tuesday, July 30, 1996

From cradle to grave on memory chip

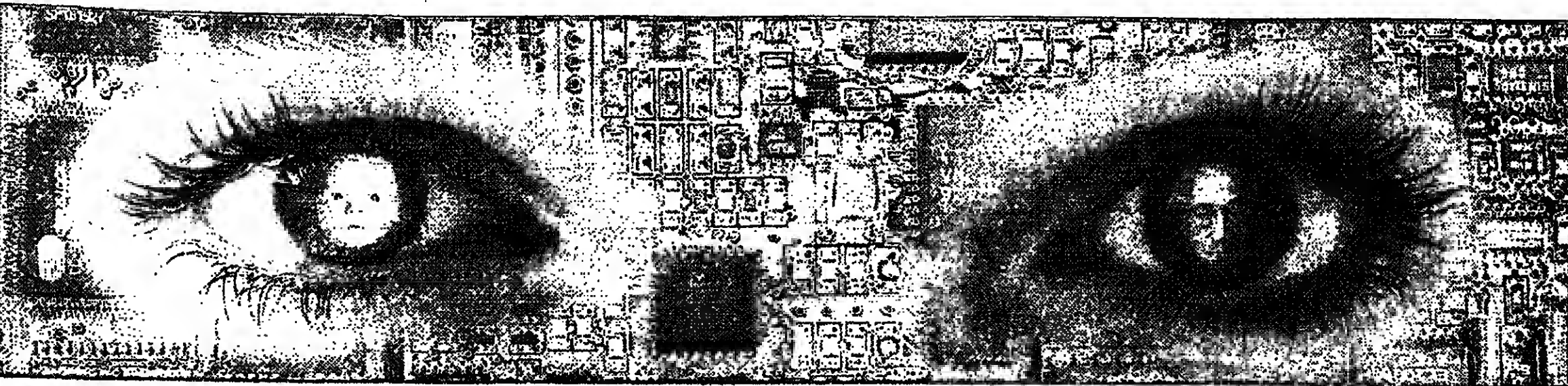
By Stuart Millar and Bill O'Neill

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY will have advanced so far in the next 30 years that people will be able to record their lives on "immortality chips", allowing them to relive their own and other people's memories, according to British Telecom scientists.

The scientists, on the Soul Catcher 2025 team based at the company's Marlesham Heath laboratories near Ipswich, have calculated that computer chips will be available with a memory capacity of 10 million megabytes, more than a million times the memory capacity of today's average personal computer chip.

According to their calculations, this matches the amount of data we accumulate during our lifetimes through the eye and other sensory nerves. They claim that this will allow massive amounts of information in the form of neuron pulses in the brain to be recorded on the human equivalent of an aircraft's black box via probes connected to the main sensory nerves.

The raw brain information would then be changed into a form where it could be downloaded onto com-



puter and viewed on a screen or transferred into another person's brain.

Dr. Chris Winter, an expert in solid state physics and biochemistry, and leader of the BT research team, said recently that the potential applications for such technology were virtually limitless. "To use an analogy, we have split the atom but the bomb has not yet been built."

He said the memory chips would revolutionise communications. People would be able to relay their experiences via a plastic-coated silicon chip in their body,

allowing them to download memories rather than talk about them.

At the moment, optical fibre links can carry the equivalent of 1 million television channels. Dr. Winter predicts that in 20 years this will have risen to 10 million channels, offering the capability of down-loading an entire lifetime from chip in a second.

"That would be very good for BT," he said. "Speech and writing are such crude forms of communicating. With these chips, we wouldn't have to rely on holiday snaps and our

memories, we could simply play our experiences back to each other."

disease; and less possibility of thieves and rapists escaping justice if a record of the

pace of development, all five senses, everything a person does or thinks, could

from machines with tiny memories to today's Pentium processors. This is merely a logical extension of that trend.

According to industry estimates, BT has invested around £20 million in the project. Last year, the company spent a total of £282 million on research and development.

But leading neuroscientists voiced doubts about the concept recently. Keo Hasse, an associate professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, said: "We don't know enough about how

the brain is organised to reduce our mind or collection of experiences to the kind of digital representation demanded. But we can afford to be optimistic."

Professor Steven Rose, of the Open University, said: "The problem is that the information recorded on the chip would be meaningless. You have to be able to understand what's going on in not just hundreds of thousands of nerve cells, but millions of nerve cells across the brain."

The Guardian

British Telecom scientists see prospect of people being fitted with "black box" mind recorders, with playback of experiences through computer links.

Other benefits would include easier teaching methods; enhanced memories for people suffering illnesses such as Alzheimer's

crime was stored in a witness's chip.

Dr. Winter denied his projections were scientific day-dreaming. "At the current

be stored and transmitted into computers or to some-body else," he said.

"In just 15 years, computer technology has advanced

China TV makers attack foreign brands in price war

By Mark O'Neill
Reuters

BEIJING — China's colour television-makers have declared war on foreign brands that command 64 per cent of the market, but may wind up victims of the battle rather than the victors, industry officials say.

"Buy, Konka, see, the Olympics and win a lottery prize," says a banner on the fourth floor of the Blue Island department store promoting a local brand that slashed prices by up to 20 per cent last month.

Another local producer, TCL, is offering a two per cent price cut on 28- and 29-inch sets, a T-shirt with a picture of a member of China's women's volleyball team, and a 40 per cent discount on a set of wedding photographs.

The price war was unleashed in March by Sichuan Changhong Electronic Appliances, China's biggest domestic manufacturer, which cut prices by eight to 18 per cent and launched a nationwide advertising blitz.

Other major domestic producers followed suit, culminating in Shenzhen Konka Electronic slashing 1,200 yuan (\$144) off the price of each set, the biggest reduction so far.

Both Konka and Changhong said they cut prices to compete better with foreign brands, both imported and those produced by joint venture companies in China.

"Foreign makers, especially from South Korea, have cut prices several times, so some of their

models could be cheaper than ours," said the manager of Konka's Beijing office. "If we did not cut prices, others would take our market share."

"The price cuts are putting increasing pressure on domestic producers," he said. "Some small-scale ones are in trouble."

A Changhong spokesman said by phone from its headquarters in southwest Sichuan province that the price cuts were timed to precede reductions in import tariffs on April 1.

"Our target was foreign competitors," he said. "They have more famous brands than ours. If their prices are lower than ours, we will not be competitive."

"Many foreign makers have joint venture companies in China that have low prices and are very competitive. We must take the initiative and win market share," he said.

The price cut had led to a surge in sales, he said, but declined to give figures.

The official market newspaper said a survey of 100 department stores in 35 major cities showed Changhong's market share had leapt to 27.43 per cent from 15.29 per cent in the first quarter as a result of the cuts.

A spokesman for Matsushita Electric Industry said the price war had affected sales of its sets of 25-inch and smaller but not its larger models.

"Consumers do not necessarily buy because of lower prices," he said. "In China, if you cut prices, consumers will hold off

buying until they get what they think is the lowest price."

He said Matsushita's dealers in China opposed price cuts, and his firm preferred to rely on its high level of technology and products developed for the Chinese market.

Production of smaller sets has begun at a joint venture plant in eastern Shandong province and the output of 25-inch sets for sale in China and export would begin in 1997, he added.

A spokesman for Peony, the biggest television producer in Beijing, said if all manufacturers cut prices it would hurt the foundation of China's television industry.

"This price war is certainly hurting China's domestic industry and each firm will be hit differently," he said. "We do not want a public price war that provokes fights among Chinese television makers."

With nearly 100 producers of television sets, China's production capacity is more than double demand. But only four manufacturers can make more than one million sets a year and only Changhong and Konka produce more than two million.

Some companies produce only a few thousand sets a year.

The world's top 10 television makers all have joint ventures in China. Samsung's plant in northern Tianjin has annual capacity of 1.5 million sets, and Sony plans 1.8 million capacity in Shanghai, state media reported.

Official figures show



Television sets line the wall as a prospective customer (second left) plays with a remote control while a salesperson attempts to sell an imported television set at Beijing's Blue Island department store (Reuters photo).

imports, including smuggled sets, accounted for 40 per cent of the 13.6 million colour televisions sold here in 1995. Foreign brands produced in Chinese factories had 24 per cent and domestic Chinese brands 36 per cent.

In January-May, China

produced 8.387 million sets, up 11.73 per cent from the same 1995 period, and imported 140,000 sets, down 58 per cent. In all of 1995, China produced 19.583 million sets, up 15.91 per cent from 1994. Thousands more sets were smuggled in.

Moscow zoo breeds success from market economics

By Ron Popecki
Reuters

MOSCOW — Moscow's zoo, decrepit and crumbling in the Soviet era, has been transformed into a modern site for family outings, thanks to market economics and a big helping hand from powerful Mayor Yuri Luzhkov.

Tiny cages with rusting steel bars have been mostly replaced by spacious, landscaped enclosures where Amur tigers, Tibetan bears and American coyotes frolic.

Visitors no longer negotiate pushchairs through vast puddles or rutted pathways ankle-deep in mud.

They pass through an entrance dominated by a castle-like facade on to cobbled paths. A stroll takes them alongside giraffes ambling in

and out of a freshly-painted shed or past a lush Beringia pond overlooked by picnic tables and food stands.

Cranes and truckloads of concrete and panelling dot the 20-hectare site. That can make life difficult for animals stunted from one temporary enclosure to another.

"Building programmes at zoos generally involve one or two sites. We had to start over again with just about everything," said Natalya Isratova, the zoo's press secretary.

"I've just come from the elephant house. It's a disaster, the walls are coming down, there are cracks everywhere. They live in a temporary house for now but they can't go for walks."

The apes have fared a little better, rehoused for now in an administrative building over a pharmacy and hairdressing salon.

"You can imagine what sort of hairdresser-type smells there are," said zoologist Isratova. "At first they literally turned up their noses. Now they're more or less used to it."

The zoo is one of several high-profile projects backed by Mr. Luzhkov — re-elected last month with nearly 90 per cent support. Others include rebuilding the vast Christ the Saviour Cathedral, blown up by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin in 1931, and modernising Moscow's perimeter road, once an unlit, potholed death trap.

"Huge sums of money have been poured in. But it's hard to say how much because we still run our affairs here in a curious Russian way, through back doors," said Ms. Isratova.

"More important than money is the fact that Luzhkov has given us reliable workers and building materials. It's not

enough here to have money. You need someone with clout."

The builders listen, she said, because, unlike hundreds of thousands of other Russian workers, they know Mr. Luzhkov's office will pay them. Unsuitable materials for the polar bear enclosure, for instance, were returned and replaced quickly.

The entire zoo shut for six weeks this year to proceed with the facelift, reopening in May to initial daily crowds of up to 70,000.

"It was like the metro at rush hour," Ms. Isratova said. "It was like in Soviet times when people would flood into Moscow from the provinces to buy sausage they couldn't get at home and then come to the zoo to relax."

Admission, a bargain in overpriced Moscow at 5,000 roubles (\$1), covers only 10

per cent of the operating budget. Billboard campaigns to boost contributions have little effect in a country just getting used to charitable causes.

Mr. Luzhkov's hand, however, benevolent, extends everywhere.

A young woman employee interrupts Ms. Isratova, displaying new, glossy admission tickets, complete with an owl-like logo and small map.

"They look nice," Ms. Isratova said. "Let's hope Yuri Mikhailovich (Luzhkov) likes them."

Market economics meant an end to the Soviet-era scrounging in and around Moscow to ensure the animals were fed.

"Our animals never went hungry under communism, though near the end the only thing available was beet," Ms. Isratova said.

Scratch and Win

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Saudi Arabia tries to cope with peak power demand

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is increasing its power generation capacity to keep up with surging electricity demand but price reforms and foreign investment are vital, analysts and contractors in the kingdom have said.

Electricity demand is already dangerously close to capacity and official forecasts point to more than seven per cent annual demand growth for the rest of the decade, mainly from growing industrial demand.

So strong has demand been this summer that the state oil firm Saudi Aramco has had to cut back its hard currency crude exports to supply the power firms with extra fuel.

Peak electricity consumption in Saudi Arabia will reach 23,310-megawatts (MW) by the end of the decade from 17,228 MW in 1994-95, according to projections made by the ministry of planning in the country's sixth five-year plan (1995-2000).

To meet this the ministry is planning to increase power generation capacity to 25,273 MW in the year 2000 from 18,238 MW in 1994-95, assisted by outside financing.

Saudi Consolidated Electric Company-East (SCECO-East), the country's

biggest power firm, last month awarded a \$1.1 billion contract to build a 2,400 MW station at Ghazlan which will start coming on stream at the end of 1999. Earlier, the state's second largest electricity firm invited contractors to bid for a \$2 billion project for a power station at Shuaiba near the Red Sea city of Jeddah.

"A lot of extra capacity is needed for now and the future... Disruptions have been at peak time and tariffs have created a great waste in consumption," said tsmail Sajini, president of Jeddah's Sajini Research and Consulting Centre.

With smaller plants being built there is enough capacity available for the next two years but more power stations will have to be built to meet growing demand, especially from the industrial cities of Jubail and Yanbu, analysts said.

But simply building new plants will not change fundamental problems in the power generation, transmission and distribution sectors such as heavy price subsidies.

"It is imperative to review the electricity tariff structure and its level... to rationalise consumption," the planning ministry urged in the current economic plan.

Industry has suffered supply disruptions in summer months as air conditioning demand soars while large-scale industrial projects are hampered by delays in electricity connections and concerns over guaranteed supplies, contractors said.

Heavy price subsidies on electricity are draining the financial reserves of the four main regional power utilities and funding demand ever higher despite the introduction of a special surcharge for large consumers this year, contractors said.

"Comprehensive financial and administrative restructuring of the industry is now an urgent necessity," according to the country's own planning ministry.

The ministry has said the financial position of autonomous electricity companies lacks proper balance, evident in high debt to capital ratios and low capital to asset ratios.

With low prices hampering the four main electricity firms' ability to build new capacity, a greater role for foreign investment is being encouraged by the ministry which is eager to rein-in spending to reduce the state's \$4 billion budget deficit.

Morocco says budget deficit better than forecast

RABAT (R) — Moroccan Finance Minister Mohammed Kabbaj has said that the budget deficit for first half 1996 was better than forecast, inflation was on target and external reserves had improved.

Mr. Kabbaj, addressing the money and savings committee at the central bank in Rabat, said the budget deficit fell to an annualised rate of 2.0 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in first half 1996, lower than the 3.5 per cent forecast in the transitional budget for the period. He said provisional figures suggested the effects on the economy of last year's devastating drought were worse than expected. The central bank said GDP shrank by 7.6 per cent last year due to the worst drought on record.

Mr. Kabbaj, who did not give any figures, said this had pushed the budget deficit to 5.3 per cent of GDP in 1995 and the current account deficit to 4.8 per cent.

"The execution of the budget for first half of 1996 has proceeded in a generally satisfactory manner with the deficit in the order of 2.0 per cent of GDP on an annual basis and that was thanks to the good evolution of fiscal receipts," Mr. Kabbaj said.

Inflation averaged an annualised 4.4 per cent in the first half of the year, compared with 6.1 per cent for the whole of 1995. Mohammed Segat, governor of Bank Al Maghrib (central bank) said the country's foreign reserves were also up 1.5 per cent or by 500 million dirhams (\$58 million) in first half 1996 compared with the same period last year.

Jordan seeks strategic partners in cement company

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is planning to open the door for international firms to acquire equity in the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) in which the government holds a major stake and will soon make an announcement to attract potential strategic partners for this purpose, according to Finance Minister Marwan Awad.

In remarks published in Al Dustour Arabic daily Monday, the minister revealed that Holderbank of Switzerland and Lafarge of France, which are both major European companies specialised in cement production, have offered to enter as partners and acquire equity in the company's shares but their bids were unacceptable in terms of price.

The French and the Swiss firms are welcome to make their bids along with other interested companies once the announcement on equity in the JCFC shares are

formally made, added the minister.

Asked on other investments in Jordan, Mr. Awad said that in 1996 the local investments corresponded to 34 per cent of the gross domestic product, as compared to 30 per cent in 1992.

"This is a very good achievement by international standards," said the minister who pointed out that the private sector accounted for 78 per cent of the total volume of investments in the Kingdom. He noted that investments were on the increase.

As to foreign investments, he said that they have reached JD 9.1 million in 1995 and indicated that foreign companies' investments at the Amman Financial Market accounted for 31 per cent of the overall market share value, slightly less than the previous year.

He said foreign investments were made mainly in the banking, industrial and

insurance sectors.

On the subject of privatisation, Mr. Awad said that the government remains committed to a strategic programme in cooperation with the World Bank to achieve the privatisation process.

The government has created a ministerial committee, chaired by the prime minister, to draw up privatisation policies but in the meantime the government has sold part of its shares in hotels and industrial businesses and is committed to sell its shares in five other companies in addition to the JCFC.

The minister said the government has already announced its intention to sell its shares in the Amman Marriott Hotel and the tomato paste and the textile company and plans to transfer part of the activities of the Housing and Urban Development Department to the private sector.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JULY 30, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Seek out the right individual who can give you advice today to make your business operate more efficiently. Later this evening will be good for you to spend this time with your loved ones out on the town and have some fun.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Take time to improve relationships with fellow associates and you can make any situation which comes up more productive. This evening is better spent at home with books or television instead of going out on the town.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't have a talk with your loved ones at this time or there could be an disagreement which could be avoided. This is a good evening to invite others to your home, however, do not make it a large gathering of people.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A friend who is practical can give you the right idea to make a cherished wish come true and this will be quite beneficial. Later this evening you can meet with some bigwig and sketch out the plans for some current project.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study your status in life and how it can be improved for the better in the days ahead. An important person appreciates your efforts this evening and will be willing to show his or her gratitude in some monetary fashion.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make worthwhile contacts during the daytime today and through your efforts they can be fruitful. Take no risks this evening concerning intimate matters or you could find yourself in a great deal of difficulty.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Practical matters are easily handled today and these can be quite prosperous. Do whatever will please your mate and he or she will show you much appreciation. Avoid demanding friends tonight or you could find yourself in some difficulty.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Come to the right agreement with fellow associates and through your efforts you can be quite successful. This is a good night to be out on the town with close friends, however, do not make it too late since you have many things to get accomplished.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A practical stance yields successful business affairs which can be quite fruitful in the days ahead. Spend the evening with those you trust and it can be a very harmonious period in your life.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Enjoy your spare time today with loved ones and close friends and you can make this day quite harmonious. This will be a good evening to have a serious discussion with your mate and hash out any difficulties which are present.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Do something which your loved ones desire of you today before getting into outside matters of importance. Avoid egotistical people this evening and you can make much progress towards gaining your success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Safeguard your health in some manner which is important to you at this time. Get into the hobby you enjoy so much and excel at for you to have some peace of mind instead of handling any stressful situations which are present.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye.

Employment Opportunity

A Swiss multinational company, leader in the field of diagnostic instruments and reagents, is planning to start-up operations in Jordan.

The company has an opportunity for an application specialist to work in the Jordanian market.

Applicants for the position should have:

- 1) A degree in Medical Technology.
- 2) Fluency in English.
- 3) At least 2 years experience in one of the main clinical laboratories.
- 4) A valid Jordanian driving licence and preferably owns a car.

If you meet the above criteria and interested to apply, please send your CV to:

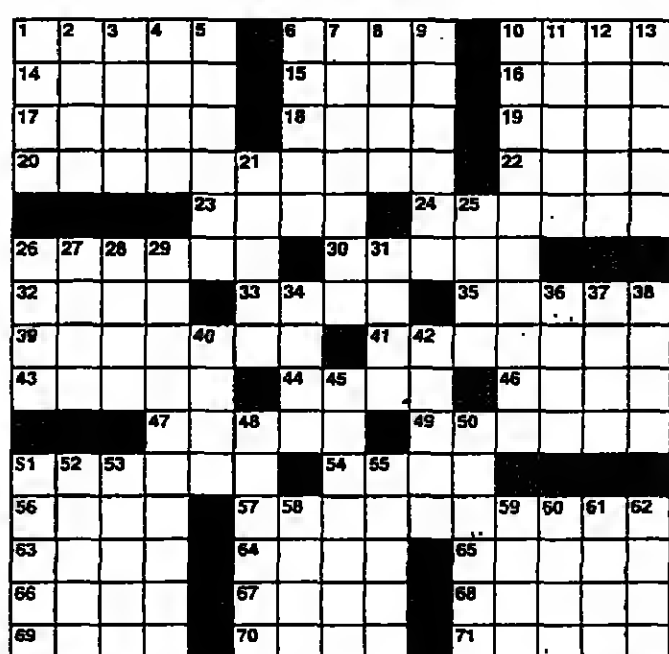
General Manager,
P.O.Box 294,
Amman 11118,
Jordan.

All applications will be dealt with under strict confidentiality.

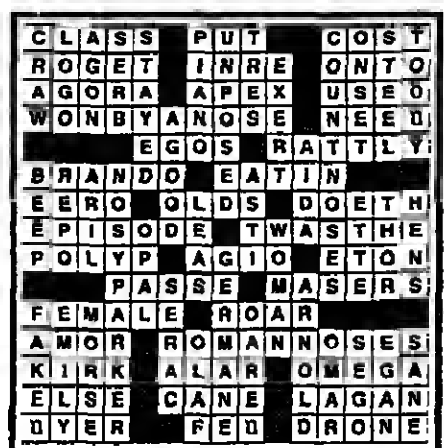
THE Daily Crossword by Eugene Puffenberger

ACROSS

- 1 Capital of Morocco
- 6 King toppers
- 10 Author Hunter
- 14 "Ben Jonson"
- 15 Joint
- 16 Fodder tower
- 17 Jeans material
- 18 Dill herb, old style
- 19 Mum one
- 20 Clock mechanism
- 22 Inter —
- 23 Oratable
- 24 Chore
- 26 Unpretentious
- 30 Dormancy
- 32 Aussie rattles
- 33 Kett of the comics
- 35 Process ore
- 39 Straightforward
- 41 Clique
- 43 Uncompromising
- 44 Ogle
- 46 St. Petersburg's river
- 47 Utopian
- 49 More Bohemian
- 51 — oil
- 54 Sea eagle
- 56 Butter, it's not
- 57 Shield with a coat of arms
- 63 Kind of skirt
- 64 Camp beds
- 65 Eldritch
- 66 Construction piece
- 67 Civil wrong
- 68 Music or sauce
- 69 Quote authority
- 70 Remain
- 71 Precipitous



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- 48 Constructs
- 50 Niche
- 51 Funny fellow
- 52 Whodunit item
- 53 French lawmaking group
- 55 Impaired by disuse
- 58 Chimney dirt
- 59 Ardor
- 60 Perry's creator
- 61 Seine tributary
- 62 Type of tide

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



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Hawaii's

Bank

Over

Beirut's

Bank

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Don't miss the San Rock Hotel

Private sector development is one of the pillars of the World Bank's policy— senior official says

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — To face its heavy foreign debt, amounting to nearly JD 4.5 billion at the end of 1995, Jordan should "earn hard currency, through boosting exports and encouraging the private sector's productivity," advised Hiroo Fukui, World Bank Vice-president for Financing and Financial Advisory Services Department.

Lecturing at the World Affairs Council late Sunday, Mr. Fukui, who has served for several years at the ministry of finance of Japan and at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before moving to the World Bank in his current capacity two years ago, stressed the importance of privatisation and private sector development.

"Private sector development is one of the pillars of the World Bank's policy," he said, adding that "past experiences show that the private sector's role is essential to achieve economic growth in developing countries."

The private sector, Mr. Fukui explained, can play a major role in creating job opportunities, reducing unemployment as well as

increasing productivity and, ultimately, helping reduce the budget deficit.

Pointing out that in certain fields of production, the private sector can "provide higher-standard technology and more efficient performance," the World Bank Vice-president warned that "state-owned enterprises are often inefficient and represent a big drain of budgetary resources."

Privatising such "drains of budgetary resources," the government could save tax-money and proceed to invest in sectors that are socially more important.

Though underlining the necessity and importance of privatisation, Mr. Fukui did not reject arguments and doubts raised by the audience over the high social costs which privatisation

processes entail.

"Undoubtedly, with privatisation, many employees become redundant and the government must create a social safety net to reallocate the surplus of human resources in other sectors," Mr. Fukui clarified.

"The privatisation process cannot be generalised, but there are different ways to privatise," he said.

"Even though privatisation can be tailored on different realities, considering the country's economic features and needs," the World Bank Vice-president stressed the need for an "enabling environment," in which the government has provided all the institutional infrastructure necessary to the privatisation process.

For a successful and painless privatisation process, "the government must have

in place good companies laws and a good financial system, while the capital market must be reasonably developed," the senior World Bank official indicated.

During the seminar, Mr. Fukui also presented the "World Bank guarantee" as a new tool created by the World Bank two years ago to attract private capital to projects in developing countries.

World Bank guarantees work as a "catalyst for private capital flows" and are provided to private lenders to finance infrastructure projects where the demand for funding is large, political and sovereign risks are significant and long-maturity financing is critical to the project's viability.

By covering risks that the market could not bear or

adequately evaluate and by "being committed to pay back the private lender in case anything goes wrong," the World Bank shows its support to the private sector," Mr. Fukui concluded.

World Bank reports estimate that over \$200 billion in infrastructure investments are needed worldwide every year to provide developing countries with basic infrastructure, such as water and electricity systems.

The World Bank envoy Monday held talks with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Planning Minister Rima Khalaf.

Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Fukui reviewed with the prime minister the World Bank's financing of projects in the Kingdom.

Kuwait's top bank takes over Beirut's Rifbank

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Rifbank had been taken over by National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) and Rifbank's name would change to National Bank of Kuwait-Lebanon S.A.L.

Officials at Rifbank, a medium-size Beirut bank with six branches and 113 staff, said NBK, which is Kuwait's biggest commercial bank, completed the takeover at the end of June by raising its holding in the Lebanese bank to 78 per cent from 45 per cent at the end of 1995.

"The increase of shareholding was finalised around the end of June 1996. The new name should take hold by the end of next month," Rifbank General Manager Michael Rowihab told Reuters.

NBK made a cash contribution to raise Rifbank's capital by \$5.5 million as of March 6, 1996, he said.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
JORDANIAN BANK GROUP - SUMMARY											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 29/07/1996											
LAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	LAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SH.	NO. OF TRANS.	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
250.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	11.9	1.61	2	160	34830	218.50	217.50	1.00	
3.800	3.000	BANK OF JORDAN	10.9	0.00	2	928	2754	3.02	3.01	0.01	
1.310	0.800	KID. EAST INV. BK.	64.4	0.00	7	2500	2453	0.97	0.96	0.01	
5.940	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.4	2.97	1	200	930	4.79	4.65	0.14	
3.040	2.400	JOR. KIWAT BANK	19.4	0.00	16	1938	2228	2.71	2.70	0.01	
1.240	0.900	JOR. GULF BANK	5.6	0.00	9	6078	3429	3.84	3.79	0.05	
6.180	3.300	JOR. TRADING BANK	18.5	0.00	9	2150	7624	3.55	3.53	0.02	
4.250	1.700	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	7	0.00	3	3100	5362	1.73	1.73	0.00	
1.090	0.200	ARAB BANK INV.	9	0.00	6	7900	2454	0.31	0.32	0.01	
1.080	1.000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	6	3050	3428	1.34	1.33	0.01	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 171.61	%CHG: -0.46	61	2802	70793				
1.850	1.520	ARABIAN ARAB INSUR.	10.6	5.21	1	250	360	1.52	1.44	0.08	
2.910	2.150	JOR. PRINCE INSUR.	6.3	8.92	1	250	560	2.25	2.24	0.01	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 123.36	%CHG: -0.34	2	500	920				
1.900	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PR.	10.5	7.69	28	21202	32220	1.52	1.52	0.00	
6.050	4.550	JOR. INTL. HOTELS	17.1	2.87	1	10000	50500	5.00	5.00	0.00	
2.270	1.050	KATL. POSTALCO	14.5	0.00	4	1400	3105	0.73	0.69	0.04	
1.450	0.200	JORDAN TRADING	9	0.00	1	300	200	1.01	1.00	0.01	
2.430	1.700	UNIFIED CO.	10.1	5.21	31	4200	8046	1.93	1.92	0.01	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 112.62	%CHG: 10.11	46	41502	95726				
3.810	3.050	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	17.9	3.19	23	6235	10452	3.15	3.13	0.02	
3.550	2.750	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	10.1	0.00	2	79	238	2.85	2.80	0.05	
5.960	4.750	JOR. POTASH CO.	15.0	4.04	3	1000	4950	5.00	4.95	0.05	
10.590	8.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.2	8.70	12	2337	21500	9.25	9.20	0.05	
3.780	2.150	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AG.	25.4	0.00	3	1213	3213	3.34	3.29	0.05	
5.810	3.100	JOR. STEEL IND.	18.5	5.99	14	4057	13559	3.37	3.24	0.03	
6.450	4.650	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.1	4.38	1	100	571	6.00	5.74	0.26	
2.600	2.100	JORDAN DAIRY	12.9	7.14	3	220	462	2.10	2.10	0.00	
8.000	4.250	JOR. ALUMINA DV. IND.	12.3	4.46	10	17000	8620	0.51	0.50	0.01	
1.440	0.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	18.9	8.35	39	15928	19740	1.26	1.24	0.02	
1.500	1.050	ARAB PAPER CO. INV.	9	0.00	1	500	875	1.36	1.35	0.01	
2.720	1.210	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	12	12000	8060	0.68	0.67	0.01	
1.210	0.640	NATIONAL TRD.	4	0.00	7	1600	1955	1.23	1.21	0.02	
2.280	1.050	INTERMED. FINANC. CORP.	73.0	0.00	2	120	2070	2.78	2.76	0.02	
3.500	2.540	UNIV. CERN. IND.	18.7	0.00	5	1073	3110	3.05	3.00	0.05	
4.900	2.650	HAZL. CARBON WIRE. NYAC	18.7	0.00	4	1000	674	0.99	0.97	0.02	
1.550	0.830	JOR. SULPHUR CORP.	27.1	0.00	11	2150	3131	1.47	1.45	0.02	
2.220	1.080	ARAB PHARM. INDUS.	17.7	0.00	10	1800	7828	1.89	1.88	0.01	
3.450	1.740	UNIV. MOON. INDUS.	5.7	10.64	10	4200	8359	2.44	2.41	0.03	
2.170	1.140	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	17.7	0.00	8	2850	2907	1.03	1.02	0.01	
1.890	0.920	JOR. NEW CARBON CO.	27.7	0.00	1	300	382	1.81	1.82	0.01	
1.450	0.750	INT. INV. GROUP. NEAR	25.2	0.00	88	33350	40137	1.18	1.20	0.02	
2.230	1.130	UNION CH. & YEC.	28.6	0.00	3	700	810	1.14	1.15	0.01	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 104.14	%CHG: -0.92	262	113173	174237				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 137.80	%CHG: -0.70	371	163177	341666				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 29/07/1996											
0.840	0.810	CENTRAL OIL. STORAGE	22.1	0.00	5	3395	1839	0.55	0.55	0.00	
0.810	0.830	JOR. TRAD. PAC.	16.0	0.00	6	2000	1260	0.63	0.63	0.00	
0.940	0.920	HAZL. CARBON. CENTRES	8	0.00	1	250	123	0.52	0.49	0.03	
1.000	0.700	UNION INV. SO.	58.9	0.00	13	47728	38555	0.59	0.67	0.02	
1.200	0.530	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	2.5	2.60	1	250	9625	38.10	38.50	0.10	
38.700	35.100	JOR. TOURIST TRAVEL CO.	9	0.00	6	4000	1850	0.61	0.61	0.00	
0.640	0.340	JOR. INDUS. MATCH-JEMCO	9	0.00	1	100	54	0.66	0.64	0.02	
1.180	0.550	WNTL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	13	8726	5672	0.65	0.65	0.00	
1.100	0.820	HAZL. CARBON. WIRE. RANICO	8	0.00	3	416	228	0.60	0.79	0.01	
1.080	0.770	JORDAN STEEL	3	0.00	7	2450	931	0.64	0.63	0.01	
1.000	0.620	NITROGEN FERTIL. 75%	2	0.00	8	8774	5028	1.16	1.14	0.02	
1.710	1.100	UNION JORDANCO 75%	8	0.00	1	1000	290	0.04	0.04	0.00	
0.940	0.540	HAZL. CARBON. WIRE. 55%	33.2	0.00	18	7400	4014	0.07	0.06	0.03	
0.880	0.440	IND. SEC.	8	0.00	10	2200	2738	0.80	0.79	0.01	
1.450	0.770	IND. CERAMIC	8	0.00	19	16900	12306	0.76	0.72	0.04	
1.500	0.530	NIO. EAST COMPLEX	8.4	6.27	3	150	599	3.90	3.99	0.09	
5.500	1.900	ARAB STEEL PIPE	10.9								
GRAND TOTAL					165	168888	89247				

DAILY BUSINESS BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

Foreign assets account for 62.6% of the Central Bank's total assets

** TOTAL ASSETS held by the Central Bank of Jordan at the end of June amounted to JD 3,430.1 million, a 10.18 per cent increase over the JD 3,113.3 million at the end of June, 1995. Foreign assets totalled JD 2,156.4 million (\$3,040.5 million) or 62.67 per cent of the total assets. Assets in local currency comprising government bonds and notes, treasury bills, discounted bills and advances and other assets totalled JD 1,131.8. On the liability side, total currency issued amounted to JD 1,027.57 million of which JD 198.2 million were deposits and current accounts, JD 492.4 million for banks and JD 501.1 in certificates of deposit. Foreign liabilities totalled JD 954.8 million (\$1,346.27 million) of which JD 792.59 million were bank deposits, JD 23.75 million of foreign certificates of deposits and JD 138.46 million of other deposits. Capital was stable at JD 18 million, the general reserve at JD 6.98 million and allocations at about JD 124.47 million. Contingent liabilities against letters of credit amounted to JD 178.1 million, noticeably higher than previous amounts (Al Ra'i).

Al Mafraq Food Industries posts

** AL MAFRAQ Food Industries Company was able to record JD 2.11 million in sales during a 9-month production period that started April 1, 1995 until the end of last year. Sales of juice amounted to JD 766,942 and of tomato paste JD 1.27 million but the legumes trailed at only JD 74,072. Of the total sales, JD 117,382 were exports. As production costs totalled JD 1.86 million, the company's operational profit was only JD 251,225. By deducting sales and marketing expenses, depreciation and interest, the end result was a loss of JD 243,991. The company's current assets at the end of 1995 totalled JD 3.38 million and current liabilities JD 1.59 million (Al Dus-tour + Al Aswaq).

JEA awards \$70m job to ABB

** THE JORDAN Electricity Authority (JEA) has officially awarded the 130 MW Steam Turbine (5th unit) of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station to ABB, the international electrical engineering company. The \$70 million job is an extension of the project awarded to an ABB consortium led by ABB Power Generation AG, Switzerland in May, 1995. Earlier this month, ABB and the Southern Company for Industrial Equipment, a joint venture registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in February, has signed an agree-

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates						Prices as at..... 29/07/96 19:37				
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF	
US Dollar		1.4804	0.8421	1.2065	166.12	1.3748	1525.06	1.6613	6.6200	
DE Mark	0.6756		0.4333	0.6151	73.05	0.9386	1026.71	1.1230	3.3915	
GB Sterling	1.5576	1.5576		1.8788	166.36	2.1400	2375.19	2.5889	7.8187	
CH Franc	0.8082	1.2260	0.5314		89.59	1.1361	1262.94	137.85	4.1574	
JP Yen	0.0069	1.3682	0.5930	1.1151		1.2680	14.89	153.82	4.8405	
CA Dollar	0.7278	1.0792	0.4882	0.8807	1.27		1112.40	1.2118	3.6620	
IT Lira	0.0007	0.0095	0.4201	0.0790	1413.03	0.0595		10.89	3.2881	
NL Guilder	0.0019	0.0019	0.3558	0.2554	64.93	0.0249	916.91		3.0189	
FR Franc	0.1992	0.2948	0.1278	0.1278	11.51	0.13732	33.16	33.1000	-	

Energy				Mid-East Currencies			
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY		
Oil							
Brent	19.35	19.30					
WTI	20.10	20.10					
Bony	19.35	19.30					
Dubai	17.85	17.85					
UL Gas	197.00	197.00					

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2686	0.2948	0.1711	0.32108	28.8509
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.40316	0.17481	0.32876	29.4594
KW Dinar	3.3445	4.95296	2.14731	4.63677	361.925
SR Dinar	0.3770	3.62773	1.70329	3.20307	267.026
CY Pound	2.1657	3.2119	1.3521	2.8176	234.534

Energy				* JOD Cross Rates			
Commodity	List	Delivery		Currency	Buy	Sell	
Coffee (c/bt)	115.33	Spot		US Dollar	0.788	0.718	
Cocoa (c/bt)	1498	Spot		CG Sterling	1.1004	1.1059	
Sugar (Stron)	371	Spot		DE Mark	0.4775	0.4799	
Wheat (Stron)	778	Spot		CH Franc	0.5854	0.5783	
Soya (c/bt)	22.57	Spot		FR Franc	0.1407	0.1414	
Tea (c/bt)	3.44	Spot		JP Yen	0.5524	0.5557	
Barley (Strb)	104	Spot		NL Guilder	0.4253	0.4274	
Rice (Strb)	430	Spot		IT Lira	0.4043	0.4045	

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

Syria's Shouaa wins 1st medal for Arabs at Atlanta Games

ATLANTA (R) — Heptathlete Ghada Shouaa can expect a few delights on the road to Damascus after clinching Syria their first ever gold medal in the history of the Olympics on Sunday.

When the 23-year-old Shouaa won the world title in the Swedish city of Gothenburg last year, she was greeted like a heroine when she returned home.

It was rumoured she was even presented with a house for the performance. This time, it could be a palace.

The road from the airport to Damascus is almost certain to be lined with people when Shouaa returns home after winning her country only their second Olympic medal after Joseph Atiyeh won a silver in the wrestling in 1984.

Apart from a poor long jump on Sunday morning, Shouaa was rarely threatened and notched up a winning total of 6,780 points after the seven disciplines to win ahead of Natasha Sazanovich of Belarus (6,563) with Britain's bronze medalist Denise Lewis (6,489).

"It was a triumphant return last time," she said. "The people love to see their athletes win. I got a special message from the president last time."

Shouaa is not the most elegant and technical of athletes but she has immense power. As one rival once put it: "She makes the shot look like a pea when she picks it up."

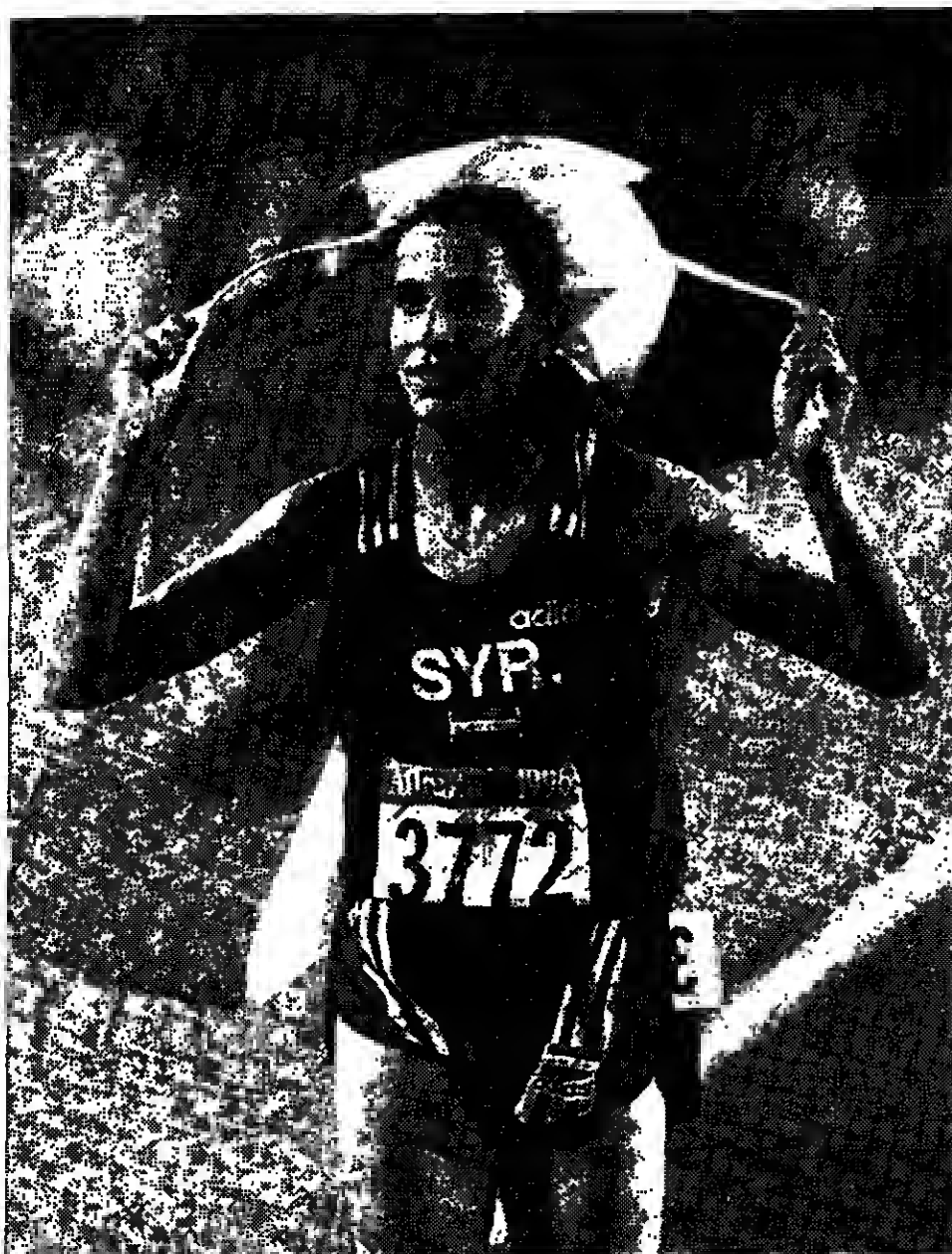
It was fair comment. The javelin in her hands can look a bit like a dart sometimes and she sails over the high jump bar with as much effort as most people would use to jump onto their sofa to watch television.

"But it is not all physical. Determination is also important," she said. "I think my country is proud to have a winning athlete at the Olympic games. I hope that this will help advance sport."

It took a while before the Syrian decided to concentrate on track and field, however. The towering Shouaa played international basketball for a while.

But, under coach Kim Bukhantsev, a former Russian discus thrower, she has matured into the most all-round of athletes.

Shouaa hoisted a 112 point lead over second-placed pole Urszula Wlodarczyk after Saturday's first day. She had clocked a personal best of 13.72 in the opening event, the 100 metres hurdles, and



Ghada Shouaa of Syria waves her national flag after winning the gold medal in the women's heptathlon event of the Centennial Olympic Games. Natasha Sazanovich of Belarus won the silver medal, and Denise Lewis of Great Britain won the bronze (Reuters photo)

Syria celebrates first Olympic gold medal

DAMASCUS (AFP) — President Hafez Al Assad congratulated Syria's first ever Olympic champion Ghada Shouaa on Monday as the whole country celebrated her win in the women's heptathlon.

Assad sent a message to Shouaa saying: "You have boosted the name of Syria and your glorious victory shows that nothing is impossible with an iron will and continuous training."

He said he was "extremely happy, proud and honoured" with her victory Sunday, which brought "the first gold medal for Syria in Olympic history, and the first gold medal for the Arabs at Atlanta."

Shouaa, who won the world championship last year in Gothenburg, said in a telephone interview with Syrian television: "I feel like it is my country Syria, the Arab

world and all Arab women who won."

Syrians were glued to their television from Sunday afternoon through the night following Shouaa's Olympic exploits. State television and radio broadcast special programmes hailing her "glorious and marvellous" victory.

Rayez, 39, a sports commentator here, said people were greeting each other with the word "mabruk" or congratulations on Monday instead of the normal hello.

"Ghada Shouaa is wonderful, she is our queen," said 16-year-old Haya, who stayed up through the night to watch the heptathlon.

Joseph Atiyeh's heavyweight (100kg) silver medal in freestyle wrestling at the 1994 Los Angeles Games was Syria's only other Olympic medal.

produced her best throw ever in the shot of 15.95 metres.

The Syrian started the second and final day with a disappointing 6.26 metres in the long jump, way below her personal best of 6.77 and slipped six points behind Sazanovich.

But Shouaa bounced back

with another personal best of 55.70 metres in the javelin and came home second in her 800 metres heat to win comfortably by 217 points.

She now has her sights on the 7,291-point world record in freestyle wrestling at the 1994 Los Angeles Games was Syria's only other Olympic medal.

after the first event with a hamstring injury.

"I have to say that I regret very much that Jackie had to give up because of injury," Shouaa said. "I am just 23 and have a lot ahead of me. I want to prepare to beat this world record at next year's world championships in Athens."

Brazil meet Nigeria in soccer semis

ATLANTA (R) — Brazil's dreams of an elusive Olympic soccer gold move one step closer when they meet Nigeria in the semifinal in Athens, Georgia, on Wednesday.

Brazil, the pre-tournament favourites, are heavily fancied to book a berth in the weekend's final against either Argentina or Portugal who play in the other semifinal on Tuesday.

Victory for the world champions, whose best Olympic performance was a silver medal in Los Angeles in 1984 and Seoul four years later, will set up the prospect of a mouth-watering clash with one of their great footballing rivals.

Argentina, who demolished Spain 4-0 in their quarter-final on Saturday, were beaten into second place by Brazil in the south American qualifying tournament in February.

Portugal share a common language, cultural and fierce on-field rivalry with their former colony.

But Brazil will still have to get past a determined Nigerian side, seeking to become the first Africans to reach an Olympic final.

The teams met last week in a fiercely contested first round group match in Miami, with Ronaldo's goal giving Brazil victory.

The 19-year-old striker, who struck twice in Sunday's 4-2 quarter-final win over Ghana, is again expected to take centre stage with his striking partner Bebeto.

The Barcelona-bound teenager has emerged as the quality player of the tournament.

Nigeria, who fielded 10 European-based professionals in their 2-0 quarter-final win over Mexico on Sunday, have shown class of their own in winning three tournament matches but lacked midfield cohesion in their previous game against Brazil.

Their king-pin is likely to be mercurial Daniel Amokachi, bristling with talent one minute and irritatingly languid the next.

Argentina, whose coach Daniel Passarella has instilled a strong discipline among his young charges, have their own individual trump card in Ariel Ortega.

None of the four semifinalists has won gold at the Olympics before.

Greek turns back clock 100 years

ATLANTA (R) — Ioannis Melissanidis gave the performance of his life on Sunday to claim a startling victory in the men's floor exercises — Greece's first Olympic gymnastics gold for 100 years.

Melissanidis tumbled brilliantly, performing difficult combinations with stunning originality and drew gasps from the audience with his sudden change of direction.

"I felt like I was in Greece and had to be perfect for Greece. I was not Ioannis Melissanidis. I was Greece."

It was Greece's first gymnastics gold since 1896, when they won the now discontinued rope climbing and rings.

All-round champion Li Xiaoshuang of China totalled 9,837 for the silver ahead of Russian Alexei Nemov, all-round runner-up.

Chorkina wins bars: Svetlana Chorkina of Russia won the Olympic women's gymnastics asymmetric bars gold medal on Sunday.

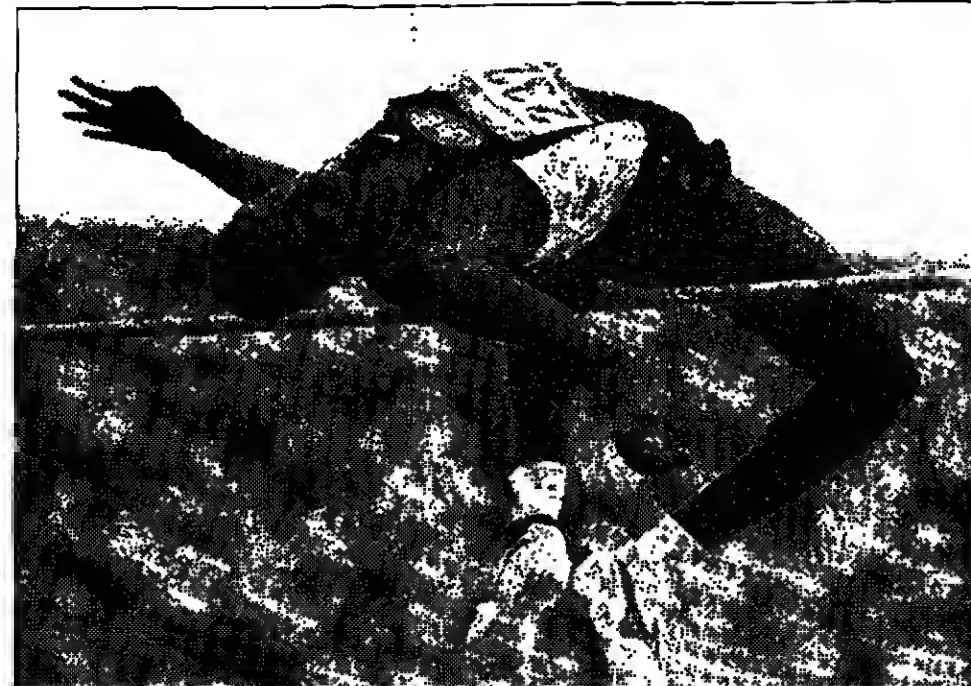
Bi Wenjing of China and American Amy Chow won a silver each. No bronze awarded.

Li wins pommel: Li Donghua of Switzerland won the Olympic men's gymnastics pommel horse gold medal Sunday.

Marius Urzica of Romania took silver and Alexei Nemov of Russia bronze.

Amanar wins vault: Simona Amanar of Romania won the women's gymnastics vault gold medal at the Olympics Sunday.

Mo Huilan of China took silver and Giza Gogean of Romania bronze.



Charles Austin of the United States competes in the high jump event at the Olympic stadium during the summer Olympics in Atlanta (Reuters photo)

Sotomayor fails as high jump title returns to U.S.

ATLANTA (R) — Olympic sprinters may snap and snarl at each other but the high-flying fraternity are all the best of friends in their cosy little club.

Charles Austin brought the Olympic men's high jump title back to the United States for the first time in almost 30 years on Sunday but his thoughts were with his main rival, defending champion and world record-holder Javier Sotomayor of Cuba.

When Sotomayor, whose record stands at 2.45 metres, failed at a relatively modest 2.32 metres, the big Texan went over to him and offered words of comfort.

"I just went over and told him I felt for him," Austin told a news conference. "I knew he was having a hard time. Hopefully, it will come back for him."

"We high jumpers are very close and we're very good friends. We like to see each other perform well. That motivates us to do well."

It is all a far cry from the antics of the sprint lanes where the big names of the game play psychological tricks on each other, routinely trade insults and almost come to blows in

spats like the one between Briton Linford Christie and Ato Boldon of Trinidad after the 100 metres final on Saturday.

Briton Steve Smith, who took the high jump bronze behind Artur Partyka of Poland, also felt sorry for Sotomayor and world champion Troy Kemp of the Bahamas, another to go out early on.

"Soto has been carrying an injury all year," he said. "Troy has had a nightmare this year. I'm sure he will be disappointed but they will both be back with a vengeance next year."

Austin won the world title in 1991 but a serious knee injury restricted him after that and it was only after surgery that he returned to form again this season.

"I don't regret not having surgery earlier," Austin said. "Things happen the way they are supposed to. I live from day to day. I just came here to have fun and see what happens."

A far cry indeed from the sprinters' creed that it's only the winning and not the taking part that counts.

To prove that the Mr. nice guy title is not the sole property of the new Olympic high jump cham-

pion, Smith chipped in with his application for membership of the Austin admiration society.

"To suddenly come out this year, after what he's been through, and go boom — you can have nothing but respect for someone who does that," he said.

Austin nearly had to settle for a silver medal when Partyka cleared 2.37 metres after he had failed twice at the same height. But he had the bar set at 2.39 and went over with his final jump to secure gold.

"My two jumps at 2.37 were pretty good so I knew I could get the height," he said. "I came here ready to jump well, wanting to win the high jump and get the world record at home."

The second part of his ambition remained unfulfilled with three unsuccessful attempts at 2.46 metres but Austin basked in the knowledge that he had become the first American to win the men's high jump since the inventor of the "fosbury flop" style, Dick Fosbury, in 1968.

Atlanta hoping spotlight will turn to sport

ATLANTA (R) — Atlanta aims to put a weekend of tragedy and scandal behind it on Monday as the showcase Olympic track and field events shift into top gear with battles for eight gold medals.

Monday's all-star line-up will be led by Carl Lewis, the greatest Olympic champion of modern times, who will seek to cap a 12-year Olympic career by winning the long jump and take four successive gold medals in one event.

Lewis laid down the drumroll for his feat on Sunday with one tremendous leap that took him from a miserable 15th place in the qualifying round to a secure place in Monday's final.

American Michael Johnson who will be gunning for the first of an expected three gold medals when he takes to the track for the finals of the men's 400 metres, an event he has not lost since 1989.

Organisers hope the packed programme at Atlanta's Olympic stadium will pull attention back to sport for the games' final seven days after a terrible weekend punctuated by a pipe bomb attack on nighttime revellers at a festive Olympic park on Saturday. Two people died and 112 were injured.

The blast, which officials have labelled terrorism, plunged Atlanta into a major security clampdown as locals, visitors athletes and officials reacted with grief, shock and outrage.

Another blow followed on Sunday when officials

announced the games' first doping scandal. Two Russian athletes were stripped of their bronze medals and a Lithuanian cyclist was also named for taking bromantan, a stimulant.

Much of Monday's Olympic action will take place outside the sports venues as investigators continue their hunt for bomb suspects and international sports officials decide whether or not to ban the athletes accused of doping.

But for the sporting audience there are still going to be shows not to miss, particularly in athletics.

One will be the appearance of Haile Gebrselassie, the only Ethiopian ever to break a world record, when he defends his title in the gruelling men's 10,000-metre race against a host of promising African challengers.

Another will be the men's 110 metre hurdles, where world champion Allen Johnson of the United States will match his talents against those of Britain's Colin Jackson, the current world record holder.

Olympic tennis, which broke out into a near-riot on Sunday when fans protested against a court change for a match featuring U.S. star Andre Agassi, will have celebrity power again on Monday.

Monica Seles, the top seeded American, opens women's quarterfinal round action against 1993 Wimbledon finalist Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic, who beat Seles at the French Open this year.

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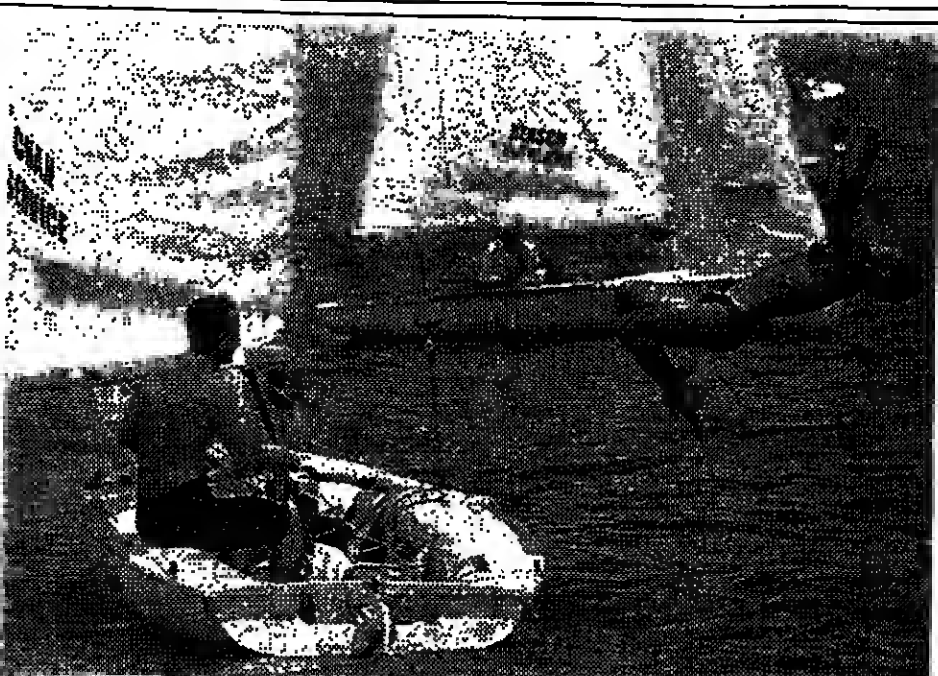


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BOXING
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CANOE-KAYAK
Men's kayak double 1,000 prelims and repechage
Men's canoe single 1,000 prelims and repechage
Women's kayak fours 500 prelims and repechage
Men's kayak single 1,000 prelims and repechage
Men's canoe double 1,000 prelims and repechage
CYCLING (MOUNTAIN BIKE)
Men's and Women's individual cross country finals
DIVING
Women's springboard, prelims
FIELD HOCKEY (Women)
Argentina vs. Britain
Germany vs. South Korea
Spain vs. U.S.
Australia vs. Netherlands
GYMNASTICS
Men's and Women's gala event exhibition
MODERN PENTATHLON
Shooting, fencing, swimming, riding and running
SOCCER
Men's semifinals
Women's quarterfinals
SOFTBALL
Bronze medal and gold medal
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING
Women's team, technical routine
TABLE TENNIS
Men's doubles finals
Men's singles quarterfinals
Women's singles semifinals
TEAM HANDBALL (Women)
Germany vs. Angola
China vs. U.S.
TENNIS
Men's singles quarterfinals
Women's doubles quarterfinals
VOLLEYBALL
Women's quarterfinals
WEIGHTLIFTING
105-plus kg Group B
WRESTLING (FREESTYLE)
48kg, 57kg, 68kg, 82kg, 100kg prelims and classification
YACHTING
Men's 470 and Women's 470 7th and 8th races
Women's Europe, Open Tornado and Open Laser finals



Italy's Yuri Chechi during his gold medal performance on the rings at the Summer Olympics in Atlanta. Chechi won the gold medal during the men's individual apparatus event at the Centennial Olympics (Reuters photo)



Hong Kong's Y.W. Chan flips off his 470 class racing yacht to cool off while his teammate Andrew Service (left) looks on during a delay in racing action due to lack of wind in the Olympic 470 class regatta in the waters off Savannah (Reuters photo)

Modern pentathlon may be consigned to Olympic scrapheap

ATLANTA (R) — Modern pentathlon could join motor boating and tug-of-war as part of the scrapheap of Olympic history if the revamped event fails to attract enough spectators in Atlanta.

An Olympic sport since 1912 when it was introduced by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, modern pentathlon provides the widest test of athletic ability at the games. Participants must be able to shoot, ride, run, swim and fence.

But time, cost and the demands of television have caught up with a sport that has its roots in the pentathlon of ancient Greek Olympiads.

Traditionally, it is spread over several days, making it hard to follow. The cost of entering is high because of the different disciplines and television prefers "sexier" variations like triathlon and ironman beach competitions.

Only a last-minute compromise stopped the IOC axing the sport from the Atlanta Games. The sport's officials agreed to cram the whole event into one day — July 30 — rather than four as in 1988.

The team event has been scrapped and the entry is limited to 32.

Veteran Richard Phelps of Britain knows if this play falls the sport may be doomed, especially as triathlon — swimming, running and cycling — is being introduced at the 2000 Games.

It is rapidly becoming a sport of older men — an offer

to include women in Atlanta was turned down by the IOC. Phelps is the oldest here, at 35, but 14 of his fellow contestants were born in the 1960s.

"The numbers are falling worldwide. We need better publicity and to make it more glamorous," Phelps said. "In reality, pentathlon is more of a challenge than triathlon. It's glamorous in its own way."

Phelps believes the future lies in a shortened version tried with success in Hungary. On July 30, the whole event will take more than 12 hours but in the format tried by former Hungarian Olympian Laszlo Fabian it is all over in 15 minutes.

What is just as important is that the shortened version takes place in one stadium rather than at several venues.

Athletes get three hits in fencing, run a lap of the track, swim in specially-built pool, shoot at balloons or discs and finally leap on a horse to jump in the stadium's infield.

It is a race pure and simple and a system of penalties ensures the lead switches, keeping tension high.

Not only does Phelps think this format increases its interest for television but it also harks back to the original concept of modern pentathlon.

Competitors were meant to follow the role of a faithful soldier delivering a message for his lord. He rides out on a horse, fights a duel with swords, is trapped and fights his way out with a pistol, swims across a river and then runs to his goal.

Dream Team dismantle Croatia

ATLANTA (R) — The U.S. Dream Team swept undefeated into the Olympic men's basketball quarter-finals with a 102-71 win against Croatia on Sunday.

The Dream Team methodically dismantled Croatia, who included three NBA players.

Mitch Richmond scored 16 points to lead the Americans, half of them in a 15-3 run starting less than five minutes into the game to push the lead from 8-5 to 23-8.

The Dream Team built the lead to 19 at the half, with the score 57-38, and kept pulling away.

Charles Barkley scored 14 points and David Robinson 13 for the all-millionaire, all NBA all-star Dream Team.

Zan Tabak of the Toronto Raptors notched up 19 points for Croatia to outscore his better-known NBA colleagues in both teams.

Team mate Toni Kukoc, who plays for the Chicago Bulls, scored 10 points with 10 assists.

The United States, winners of Group A, face Brazil, fourth seeds in group B, in the opening game of the quarter-finals.

Croatia, seeded third in group B, will face Australia, second in group A.

Yugoslavia stay unbeaten: Undefeated Yugoslavia ended Puerto Rico's medal hopes in the Olympic men's basketball tournament Sunday with a straightforward 97-86 victory.

Yugoslavia, hardly tested in their march through the weaker Group B, play China in the quarter-finals.

Predrag Danilovic led Yugoslavia with 22 points.

Wang leaves crucial questions unanswered

ATLANTA (R) — Wang Junxia answered one question on the track on Sunday but left several hanging open after winning the inaugural Olympic women's 5,000 metres with the greatest of ease.

The 23-year-old Chinese, not sighted in the international arena since an astonishing series of performances three years ago, pulled away in the penultimate lap to win in 14 minutes 59.88 seconds.

But she gave few clues afterwards of what really lies behind her successes, leaving the Chinese enigma intact.

After winning the 1993 world 10,000 metres title in Stuttgart, Wang embarked on a world record spree never seen before and never witnessed since on the track.

At the Chinese national games in September 1993, Wang slashed nearly 42 seconds off the world 10,000 metres record, ran second to Qu Yunxia in the 1,500 under the old world Mark then reduced the world 3,000 record on consecutive days.

Her then coach Ma Junren attributed Wang's achievements to unprecedented training loads equivalent to a marathon, or 40 kms plus, running a day.

Sceptical Western observers said the sudden Chinese emergence could have been achieved only by performance enhancing drugs. China has denied instituting any state controlled drugs programme.

Wang split with Ma amid lurid tales of physical abuse and misappropriation of funds.

Stricken by hip and foot injuries she rested then resumed training under Mao Dezhen and alone among Ma's former "family army" qualified for Atlanta.

Sunday's 5,000 was little more than a training run for



Junxia Wang from China celebrates on the victory podium after being presented her gold medal for finishing first in the women's 5000m race at the Centennial Olympic Games (Reuters photo)

Wang, who eased past Kenyan Pauline Konga and was unchallenged over the final 800 metres.

"I was watching the Keryans and they didn't seem to be responding," Wang explained through an interpreter.

That was about the last revelation of the evening.

Wang said she did not see Ma now but evaded comment on the split.

"I have had great athletics coaches in my life," she said. "I didn't know if there would be a record but it was important to win the gold medal for the pride it brings to my country which is what I was really striving for."

A Chinese journalist was asked if she could find out Wang's new training routine from Mao, who was present at the post-race news conference.

"He said sometimes she runs long and sometimes she runs short," the journalist replied helpfully.

The real clue as to just how regimented present Chinese training methods are may have come earlier when Wang was asked if she had any contact with Ma.

"I don't see him," she replied. "I don't even have much contact with my family."

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Israel lifts W. Bank ban imposed after attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — Israel on Monday eased a full closure of the occupied West Bank imposed last week after a drive-by attack by Palestinian guerrillas which killed three people, an army official said.

"The closure was lifted this morning and the easing of restrictions on Palestinians which began before the terror attack was resumed," an army spokesman told Reuters.

Israel slapped a total ban on Palestinians entering the country from the occupied West Bank last week after Arab gunmen killed three Israelis and apparently fled towards the West Bank.

Before the fatal shooting, Israel had begun easing a five-month-old blockade on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, allowing about 27,500 Palestinian workers — 15,500 from Gaza and 12,000 from the West Bank — to return to jobs in Israel.

The easing of restrictions will now resume. Tens of thousands of Palestinians once worked in Israel, usually in low-paid construction and agriculture jobs.

Israel imposed the closure on the West Bank and Gaza during a wave of suicide bombings that killed 59 people in February and March and only began easing it in recent weeks.

Palestinians call the measures, which have devastated the West Bank and Gazan economy, a form of collective punishment.

In another development Monday, Jewish settler leaders met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to demand a doubling of their numbers in the occupied areas, but the Israeli premier gave them no promises, officials said.

The hour-long meeting was the first contact between Mr. Netanyahu and the settlers' council since his right-wing government took power in Israel last month promising an expansion of Jewish settlements.

The council has plans to build eight new settlements and double the number of settlers, currently 145,000, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by the year 2000.

They have also called for the freeze to be lifted on construction in the occupied territories, instigated by former Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres in 1992.

In addition, the settlers are opposed to the Israeli army's planned redeployment from most of the West Bank town of Hebron, where 400 Jewish settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians, due to happen in March but delayed on security grounds.

But Mr. Netanyahu made the settlers no firm pledges during the meeting, said officials. The prime minister does not want to build new settlements but is aiming initially to increase the size of existing ones on the West Bank and give fresh impetus to building by-pass roads for settlers around areas under Palestinian self-rule.

Mr. Netanyahu wants to fill between 2,500 and 3,000 properties in the occupied areas deliberately left empty by the previous government. His government also said Sunday that it would re-introduce tax incentives and financial aid for Israelis living in the settlements, which were suspended by Labour.

There are currently around 145,000 settlers living in 140 settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Earlier Monday hardline Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon ordered the construction of two major roads to be used by settlers on the West Bank, a ministry spokesman said.

One road will link the south of the Palestinian-controlled town of Ramallah to the north of Jerusalem via an Israeli airport under construction at Atarot and Pisgat Zeev, a new Jewish suburb of Jerusalem.

The second road will link the Israeli coast to a string of settlements south of Nablus on the West Bank.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) wants all settlements in the territories to be dismantled at the end of the interim period of autonomy in 1999 and bitterly opposes any expansion in the meantime.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat warned on Saturday that Mr. Netanyahu's settlement policy "will only increase tension."

PNA 'no more trusts' Israeli government, Kaddoumi says after meeting with Kabariti

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Monday expressed deep concern over the stalemate in the Middle East peace process and Israel's failure to implement the Oslo agreements calling on the Arab countries to unify their stands in the face of the new Israeli government's hardline policies, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Speaking after a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, the head of the PLO's political department, Farouk Kaddoumi, said that the Palestinian leadership "no more trusts in Israel's stand because it has reneged on its commitments in the Oslo agreements and because it has been continually imposing closures and sieges on Arab areas of Palestine."

Referring to the meeting with Mr. Kabariti, Mr. Kaddoumi said: "The meeting was one among brothers who have common interests and face a common destiny."

"In the meeting we discussed how we can protect the peace process and the principles on which it has been based especially in the wake of the recent developments in Israel and

the emergence of the Likud-led government and its announcement of its political programme," Mr. Kaddoumi said in a statement to Jordan Television.

"The other point discussed at the meeting was how we can enhance collective Arab action in conformity with the resolutions of the Cairo Arab summit and how to find common ground for joint Arab action in the future," Mr. Kaddoumi added. He said that issues of common concern were reviewed and the two sides agreed on pursuing contacts concerning the peace process and the joint Arab action.

In reply to a question, Mr. Kaddoumi denied that he was involved in a process of mediating between the various Palestinian factions or seeking to reconcile the Damascus-based groups with the PLO.

"It is my duty to contact all Palestinian political factions at this stage in order to create Palestinian consensus so that we can proceed in the peace process on clear and sound bases," added Mr. Kaddoumi.

Palestine Ambassador to Jordan Omar Khatib attended the meeting of Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Kaddoumi.

Somalia's Aideed goes on radio to quash wounding rumours

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed has gone on radio to quash rumours that he had been seriously wounded in battle and also accuse the European Union of backing his bitter rivals.

In an address over his factional radio station, late Sunday to mark the death of the Prophet Mohammad, Gen. Aideed said: "Wishes from the enemy cannot kill or wound me. I will die when my time runs out and when God wishes."

He was reacting to claims here last week by opponents that he had been shot and seriously wounded in a battle in the Medina district of south Mogadishu and would be flown to Nairobi in neighbouring Kenya for medical treatment.

During his address, Gen. Aideed also lashed out at the European Union and its special envoy to Somalia, Sigurd Ilting, accusing it of funding the recent upsurge in fighting in the Jowhar district north of Mogadishu and in Somalia's northeast and northwest regions.

Gen. Aideed accused the union of having made available funds which enabled his arch-rival Ali Mahdi Mohammed to attack many districts in the Somali capital, including Wardhigley.

Hamar Weyne, Shingani, Bondhere, Medina and Huriwa.

"The attack on Ballidogle airport, 90 kilometres west of Mogadishu on Thursday, was part of the EU projects to devastate the Somali people," Gen. Aideed charged, commending his forces for defending the Somali people against "attacks sponsored by the EU and foreign-manipulated elements."

The Ballidogle airport fell to a joint force, known as the "Force for Peace," consisting of militiamen from Ali Mahdi's Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA), those of the United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA) faction loyal to Osman Hassan Ali Atto, Gen. Aideed's former financier-turned bitter political rival, and a force from the Awadde clan's Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM).

However, the general's militiamen were said to have recaptured the airport Saturday.

The radio speech came as journalists here were pressing officials of Gen. Aideed's USC/SNA faction for a meeting with the general, who has not been seen in public since the bloody fighting erupted in the Medina district at the beginning of this month.



ADMIRAL SMITH HONOURED: Sgt. Deb Baker from Boyne City, Michigan, rests as she waits for the start of the ceremony in honour of U.S. Admiral Leighton Smith, Commander of IFOR troops at the Tuzla airbase on Monday. Adm. Smith will leave his position on Tuesday, and U.S. Admiral Joseph Lopez will take over (Reuters photo)

FBI has no plans to release sketch of suspect in Atlanta blast

ATLANTA (R) — The FBI on Monday denied it was about to release a sketch of a prime suspect in the Olympic bombing and declined to comment on reports witnesses had described a man wearing military fatigues.

FBI officials say they have many good leads in their investigation into Saturday's pipe bomb explosion in which two people died and 110 were injured.

They are hunting a white American man who made a warning call 13 minutes before the blast from a nearby public phone.

The Washington Post, quoting FBI sources, said on Monday three witnesses had spotted a white male wearing what looked like military clothes. But an FBI spokesman said: "We cannot make any comment on that report."

He also said a sketch of the suspect would not be released until the hunt had been narrowed down.

"We have no plans for a photo release at this time," he said.

The warning call to police came from a public telephone outside a hotel adjoining the park. Voice experts identified the caller as a white American.

Atlanta police have been flooded with false bomb alarms since Saturday's attack, a spokeswoman said.

Hundreds of athletes and officials had to be evacuated from the Olympic village's central area on Sunday after a bomb alert. They were herded into the rain-soaked streets outside.

Singapore marathon runner Yvonne Danson said afterwards: "It's getting out of hand. We wanted to stay and enjoy next week. Now we're leaving early. It's very sad. It spoils the nice feeling of the games."

"We are a little bit confused and scared," said Finnish pistol shooter Peter Erelanemi.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. committee postpones oil-for-food deal

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. sanctions committee has again postponed the adoption of guidelines necessary to complete the oil-for-food deal that would enable Iraq to resume oil exports, a U.N. spokesman said Monday. An official sanctions committee meeting — slated to occur Monday in New York — has been postponed until Wednesday due to a scheduling conflict with a U.N. Security Council meeting, a German diplomat said. Asked if the United States had — prior to the postponement — indicated that it would lend its support to the guidelines, the diplomat answered "no." The United States is the only member of the committee to withhold approval for the May 20 agreement, which provides for sanctions-hit Baghdad to resume limited oil exports in return for humanitarian supplies. The Clinton administration has on several occasions said that it wishes to ensure that Iraq does not misuse the agreement.

Perry departs for S. Arabia — officials

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry left for Saudi Arabia on Monday to discuss the protection of U.S. troops in the kingdom from further terrorist attacks, Clinton administration officials said. The officials, who asked not to be identified, said Mr. Perry was expected to arrive in the Gulf region on Tuesday. They refused to discuss Mr. Perry's schedule, saying only that he had departed on a trip involving the "welfare and security" of U.S. forces.

Defence closes case in trial of Brotherhood

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's high military court finished on Monday hearing the defence for 13 members of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood group accused of seeking to overthrow the government, legal sources said. The court said it would rule on Aug. 15 in the case in which the defendants face up to life imprisonment, the sources said. The defendants, who were arrested in April, have pleaded innocent to seeking to revive the banned group and "stirring up the public in order to overturn the government." They had refused to bring their own lawyers when the trial began on July 15, denouncing the trial as "political," then refused four court-appointed lawyers, who defended their case anyway.

Hizbollah fires on Israeli positions

BEIRUT (AFP) — Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas fired artillery shells Monday at two Israeli positions in the Jewish state's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, sources said. In a statement received in Beirut, Hizbollah also said that a group from its armed wing, the Islamic Resistance, had attacked a patrol of Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army, causing "a certain number of casualties." Hizbollah artillery fired "simultaneously" against two Israeli army positions at Sojud and Bir Al Kallab in the occupied zone, destroying an (Israeli-made) Merkava tank, the fundamentalist group said. The SLA's radio confirmed the attacks, but said they did not cause any casualties.

Iraqi beheaded in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (AFP) — An Iraqi was beheaded in the northern Saudi city of Arar on Monday after he was found guilty of shooting to death a Saudi man and stealing his money, the interior ministry said. Mufid Abdul Karim Al Mushahid was the 18th person executed in Saudi Arabia this year, according to a toll based on official statements. He was beheaded by sword at a public square, said a ministry statement carried on television. Saudi Arabia, which strictly applies Islamic or Sharia law, executes those found guilty of murder, rape, armed robbery, or drug trafficking. A record 186 people were executed in Saudi Arabia last year.



World Harp Congress bebops to a close

TACOMA, Washington

(AFP) — The sixth World Harp Congress music festival in this port city south of Seattle concluded on an odd note Sunday, Deborah Henson-Conant, a three-time "guest" artist with the Boston Pops Orchestra, rose to her feet and thumped her classical harp like a stand-up bass in the finale of the eight-day, 24-concert fest, which brought together more than 1,000 harpists from around the world.

She slapped the soundboard, zinged a fingernail along one of the heavy steel strings, and flailed the instrument like a fretless gypsy guitar in her signature piece, "Baroque Flamenco," a fitting end to a festival devoted largely to the harp in jazz, pop, and Latin beat. Many of the world's renowned harpists, including Canada's Erica Goodman, Japan's Kumiko Inoue and Ayako Shinozaki, early music virtuoso Andrew Lawrence-King, and the Bolshoi Theatre's Natalia Shumayeva, also performed solo and ensemble pieces, among them six world premieres. In a mid-week concert by the Suzuki Student Harp Ensemble, whose members range in age from eight to 18, 30 harps filled the stage for a performance of Carlos Salzedo's Suite Of Eight Dances.

Princess Margaret gets new grandchild

LONDON (R) — Britain's royal family, slimmed slightly with the divorce agreements of Princess Diana and the Duchess of York, gained a new member with the birth of a grandson to Princess Margaret. Lady Sarah Chatto, 31-year-old daughter of Princess Margaret and her ex-husband Lord Snowdon, gave birth to a son Sunday. The child has not been named. The child will be 14th in line to the throne behind Lady Sarah, her brother Viscount Linley, and Princess Margaret, who is Queen Elizabeth's younger sister.

Small town draws world audience to 'redneck games'

DUBLIN, Georgia (R) — The mud-pit belly flop will probably never be an Olympic sport. But it is a central event at the "Summer Redneck Games," 17 days of mud-diving, tub-cap hurling and other antics that make fun of southern stereotypes. The good-natured spoof in the hills of east Georgia was timed to coincide with the 1996 Olympic Games underway 200 kilometres away in Atlanta. Some 3,000 people packed the grandstand of a local motor speedway at last week's opening of the Redneck Games to watch a runner named "elbow" carry a propane torch onto the racetrack and light the official BBQ grill.

No room for rubbish in tiny Singapore

SINGAPORE (R) — Singaporeans are producing rubbish at rates outstripping population, and economic growth and will force the country's government to spend billions of dollars building new incinerators, the Sunday Times newspaper said. Environment Minister Teo Chee Hean said at a groundbreaking ceremony for a billion-dollar (\$709 million) incineration plant Saturday that Singaporeans have become more wasteful with growing affluence, the newspaper said.



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